

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
February 3, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Tim Terfehr at 5:16pm. Those present were: Larry Baarts, Wes Anderson, Elliot Belgard, and Richard Koons. Absent: Brent Schultze and Steve Fosness. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Jessica Korte, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Mike Sheplee, Martin County Assessor and Bryan Stading, RCEF.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Anderson to approve the agenda with the addition of presentation and review of “Tax Abatement Policy Scenarios” by the County Assessor. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Belgard to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 regular EDA Board meeting. Carried unanimously.

Sheplee provided a copy and reviewed the “Tax Abatement Policy Scenarios for 2020” spreadsheet with the Board, which included scenarios and the effects of the proposed single and multi-family housing tax abatement policy for new construction. Such scenarios included school/City/County abatements in various cities, townships and county and the annual benefits that may be received on a certain value of newly constructed single for multi-family housing in the county. After further discussion and follow up questions, the Board thanked Sheplee for the information.

The Board reviewed the third draft of the proposed single and multi-family housing tax abatement policy, which included changes proposed by the EDA subcommittee, along with suggested changes from Mike Sheplee, Martin County Assessor and Jessica Korte, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer. Sheplee presented and reviewed his proposed changes to the proposed tax abatement policy and Korte presented suggestions to the proposed policy as well. By consensus, the Board deleted “seasonal recreation” eligibility, reviewed the tax abatement application, that the owner of the property will not challenge the market value of the property from any governmental agency, there was discussion on the need to charge an application fee; and the timing for payment of the abatement by January 31st to the owner of record as of December 31st of the tax year.

After further discussion, by consensus the Board directed that Bond Counsel review the proposed draft of the single and multi-family home tax abatement program policy and that it be brought to the March EDA Board meeting for review and approval. Koons stated that once we have a final draft policy, which it be sent to the cities in the county for review.

Stading reviewed the January 2020 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of twelve (12) facilitation sessions and a total of 32 hours of consultant services.

Higgins presented the draft final DEED grant docs and stated that they are near completion for approval and signature. The total grant amount for the two fiscal years is \$291,000. (\$145,000 per year).

Higgins further stated that as the Board is aware, the Riverbend Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation (RCEF) received a grant in the amount of \$150,000 per year for two years for state fiscal year 2020/2021. The services to be provided are to include the nine county region to include the counties of Martin, Blue Earth, Brown, Watonwan, Waseca, Faribault, LeSuer, Nicollet, and Sibley. The eligible expenses include to payment of overhead expenses pre-venture assistance individuals starting a business and services for underserved populations, agriculture businesses and students. Martin County serves as the host/fiscal agent for RCEF grant.

After further discussion,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Koons, Be It Resolved that the Martin County EDA hereby approves the DEED Grant contract No. SPAP-19-0009-P-FY20 in the amount of \$291,000 for the FY20-21 (\$145,000/year) between the DEED and the Martin County Economic Development Authority on behalf of the Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation (RCEF); and to recommend that the Martin County EDA recommends approval and ratification of the Grant to the Martin County Board of Commissioners. Carried unanimously.

Higgins informed the Board that there is new DEED promotion program called *Telecommuter Forward! Community Certification* for counties, cities or township that supports and commits to promote the availability of telecommuting options in communities of Minnesota. This application is through DEED- Office of Broadband. The requirements of the program are to comply with the statutory requirements and is attached to your agenda. This new certification program was placed into law by the State Legislature last year. Higgins stated that he had been in contact with DEED and since it is a very new program, DEED is in the process of developing recommendations and best practices in promoting telecommuting in communities and promoting availability of broadband in the communities within the county.

Higgins stated that the County Board would need to consider and give approval for the certification and designation as *Telecommuter Forward! Community*.

After further discussion,

Motion by Koons, seconded by Anderson, Be It Resolved that the Martin County EDA hereby supports, approves and recommends that the Martin County Board of Commissioners approve the required resolution for Martin County in promoting and supporting of telecommuting opportunities and application to DEED for Telecommuter Forward! Certification Program. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for January 7, 2020- February 3, 2020 in the amount of \$16,043.86; and to add the RCEF invoice #402001(January 2020) in the amount of \$4,800 for a total of \$20,843.86.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Anderson approve and ratify the bills for January 7, 2020-February 3, 2020 in the amount of \$16 043.86; and to add the RCEF invoice #402001(January 2020) in the amount of \$4,800 for a total of \$20,843.86. Carried unanimously

The Board reviewed the January 2020 Year to date financial reports, with a listed EDA fund balance of \$287,643.37.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Belgard to receive and file the EDA January 2020 financial report. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the information included in the board packets including the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce annual renewal.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Anderson to approve the CY2020 Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce annual membership renewal. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Area Career Exploration Event (ACE) scheduled for April 10, 2019 at the Fairmont High School.

Higgins reviewed the Interlaken Heritage Days (IHD) sponsorship request for the 2020 IHD event

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Koons to receive and file Interlaken Heritage Days (IHD) sponsorship request letter dated January 15, 2020. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the letter from the Rural Minnesota Energy Board regarding the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE).

The Board discussed citizen interest in serving on the EDA board in the future.

There was discussion on the membership of the RCEF Board, which would be made up of county representatives.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2020 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Koons, seconded by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Brent Schultze, Board President

Tim Terfehr, Board Secretary/Treasurer