

## **Board Meeting Minutes of the Martin County EDA**

**February 6, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Wes Anderson at 5:15 pm. Those present were: Wes Anderson, Richard Koons, Elizabeth Miller, Brent Schultze, Jaime Bleess and Steve Fosness. Those absent were: Tim Terfehr. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Amber Patten (CEDA Consultant), Joshua Schuetz (CEDA Consultant) and Ned Koppen, Fairmont EDA Director.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Fosness to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes from the January 9th Martin County EDA Board Meeting. Carried unanimously.

There was no old business to be discussed.

Patten and Schuetz reviewed January's client report with the board. Nine clients were served.

Patten and Schuetz reviewed other EDA projects with the board. Discussion was had regarding the IGNITE tagline and the Martin County EDA website to make it clearer that the Martin County EDA is the entity providing services, not IGNITE.

Schuetz introduced the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant Agreement to the board for signing. The grant, which totals \$11,000, will enable the translation of EDA business consulting and website materials, as well as facilitating a community event aimed at multicultural outreach, to be coordinated with Project 1590.

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Schultze to approve the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant Agreement in the amount of \$11,000. Carried unanimously.

Schuetz updated the board on changes made to the Martin County Broadband Partnership Program, following feedback from the broadband committee. These changes entail the change of the minimum required speeds to 500 MBPS download/500 MBPS upload, and keeping the program open until the depletion of funds.

Fosness asked about the broadband project in Ceylon. Schuetz said he was unaware of where the project sits. Koons and Fosness asked if a postcard could be created to advertise the free broadband hookup to households in Ceylon not yet signed up, with the EDA's logo. Patten said this will be done.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Bleess to authorize staff to create and mail postcards for the Ceylon Broadband Program. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the bills for January with the board.

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Miller to approve the bills to be paid for January. Carried unanimously.

Discussion was had regarding the agenda packet. Koons requested that the packet be sent by email. Schuetz said this will be done.

Higgins updated the board on informational items related to the SMIF, the Sherburn Civic and Commerce Club and the Interlaken Heritage Days Festival.

Koons asked Koppen about InterLaken Heritage Days and asked if it would be valuable to have EDA presence at the event. Schuetz said he will investigate having EDA staff present.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Koons, seconded by Fosness to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. The Martin County EDA meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

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Wes Anderson, Board President

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Tim Terfehr, Secretary-Treasurer