

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
September 10, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Steve Fosness at 6:30 pm. Those present were: Wes Anderson, Elliot Belgard, Tim Terfehr and Commissioner Tom Mahoney substituted for Koons. Absent: Brent Schultze, Larry Baarts, and Richard Koons. Also present were Scott Higgins, Bryan Stading, RCEF.

The Board gave a presentation to the City Council of Ceylon, MN at the City of Ceylon's regular council meeting, about the Martin County EDA's purpose and services it has available to assist cities within Martin County with economic development.

Motion by Mahoney, seconded by Belgard to approve the agenda as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Mahoney to approve the minutes of August 5, 2019 regular EDA Board meeting, with the following changes Terfehr was not present, and Steve Fosness was present at the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated that the board was presented at the August board meeting, a proposal for business related services from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the year 2020 in the amount of \$40,000. The proposal would include on site business consultation two days per month; and five Consulting Cafés dates to be held throughout the county on Saturday mornings, which would provide consultant from a variety of business specialties to consult with entrepreneur or those in business; and to allow Martin County Business to access Bizlink North. The duration of the proposal is from October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020.

Belgard stated that we have similar services with RCEF.

After brief discussion,

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County EDA, after review and consideration; and having businesses consultation services being provided by RCEF, does not accept the proposal from the SBDC for businesses services. Carried unanimously.

Stading reviewed the August 2019 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of ten clients for a total of 31 hours.

Stading gave an update on the proposed legislation for continued funding for entrepreneurial business facilitation services, stating that still working on putting together the information for the two year (\$150,000 each year) grant to RCEF to provide business consultation services to the Region 9 counties.

The Board opened discussion on board protocol once official action has been taken by the full board.

Terfehr stated his frustration on recent matter in relation to the EDA Board approval and recommendation to the full county board in support of the CHS tax abatement request, stating that when a board member makes comments on behalf of the EDA board, that is opposite of the action taken by the Board, seems very dysfunctional and confusing to the public. Terfehr stated this had caused a bit of confusion for County Board member who was under the impression that the EDA had recommended approval of the CHS tax abatement request, which was the case, but felt there was a mixed message on the action of the EDA Board.

Wes stated the information provided at the August EDA board meeting was not accurate and further stated his concerns was his own and not those of the EDA and not representing the EDA.

Terfehr stated that we as a board need to be more cohesive once decisions are made by the EDA Board. It is very important to the EDA Board and its reputation as it works on economic development projects.

More discussion occurred on the information received related to the tax abatement request. No further action taken.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for August 6, 2019-September 10, 2019 in the amount of \$7,660.79.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Terfehr approve and ratify the bills for August 6, 2019-September 10, 2019 in the amount of \$7,660.79. Carried unanimously

The Board reviewed the August 2019 Year to date financial reports, with a listed EDA fund balance of \$294,136.62.

Higgins reviewed the following information included in the board packets; MCIT dividend letter in the amount of \$161; MCIT renewal letter notice, Property/Casualty projected premium of \$1,303 and Workers Compensation no premium (no staff); and Census 101: What you need to know fact sheet; Draft of CHS agreement as result of public hearing to be reviewed by CHS for acceptance; and MCIT letter of the MCIT Annual Report.

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2019 at 5:15pm at the Courthouse.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Terfehr to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm

Steve Fosness, Board Vice President

Larry Baarts, Board Secretary/Treasurer