

**Board Minutes of the
Martin County EDA
November 4, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Brent Schultze at 5:15pm. Those present were: Steve Fosness, Larry Baarts, Tim Terfehr, Elliot Belgard, and Richard Koon. Absent: Wes Anderson. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator and Bryan Stading, RCEF.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Fosness to approve the agenda, with Approval of Minutes to be deleted from the agenda. Carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the proposal for single and multi-family home tax abatement. Higgins stated that the Fairmont School District has approved and implemented a multifamily housing tax abatement program similar to the proposal the EDA board is considering at this time.

Higgins informed the board that he had contacted the Kennedy/Graven law firm to assist the county in developing and formulating a policy for single and multi-family tax abatement program, if the board wishes to proceed in having the firm develop the policy for the tax abatement program.

Belgard stated the need to determine if we are looking to implement tax abatement for just multi-family housing or single home construction as well. Belgard stated why we would not consider tax abatement for both.

Koons stated that as we look at this tax abatement, we should look at consideration abatement for additions to homes of \$100,000 or more.

Terfehr suggested that he would support a ten (10) year abatement for multi –family housing and five (5) year abatement for single family homes.

Koons suggested that we talk with other counties and find out what they have in place for tax abatement programs. Koons further stated he was all for a tax abatement program for both (single and multi-family housing) and suggested to have a ten (10) abatement for both.

Koons suggested getting sample policies from other counties.

Schultze concurred and stated we can discuss further at the next month's meeting.

After further discussion, the board requested sample policies from other counties who may have implemented similar tax abatement programs and review at the next board meeting and to hold off engaging the law firm in development of tax abatement policy.

Stading presented and reviewed the October 2019 business consultation report with the Board. There were a total of five (5) facilitation sessions for a total of 18 hours.

Higgins stated the Board is aware RCEF received a grant in the amount of \$150,000 per year for two years for state fiscal year 2020/2021. The grant requires a dollar for dollar match. The EDA has given its approval to serve as the host/fiscal agent for the grant. Higgins further stated at this time, the RCEF Board has not approved the submission of the grant, although Bryan has worked closely with the grant administrator (DEED) in completing the application. There are apparently some details that the RCEF Board still wishes to address. The Board discussed the need to get the grant submitted soon. Stading indicated that is a concern he shares and you can only go back 60 days to receive reimbursement for expenses.

Belgard stated his concern for the delay and stated that it may be possible that we need to do this on our own, further stating that at this time we need to see what happens (with the RCEF) and pick up the pieces.

Higgins reviewed with the Board the terms of its membership, stating that the terms of Steve Fosness and Elliot Belgard are up at end of this year, further stating that both can reappointed to another terms, per the EDA By laws. Higgins stated that if both are interested to continue to serve, the county board will make the appointments for another three year term. Fosness and Belgard indicated they would serve another term.

Higgins presented and reviewed the bills for approval and ratification for October 8, 2019-November 4, 2019 in the amount of \$782.04.

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Fosness to ratify the bills for October 8, 2019-November 4, 2019 in the amount of \$782.04. Carried unanimously

The Board reviewed the October 2019 Year to Date financial reports, with a listed fund balance of \$277,513.51.

Higgins reviewed the following information included in the board packets; the EDA By Laws, stating that each year the Board has the opportunity to review the Bylaws.

With no further business to wit,

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:11pm

Brent Schultze, Board President

Larry Baarts, Board Secretary/Treasurer

