

**Board Meeting Minutes of the Martin County EDA  
December 12, 2022**

The Martin County EDA meeting was called to order by Chairman Brent Schultze at 5:15 p.m. Board members present were Wes Anderson, Steve Fosness, Richard Koons, Brent Schultz, Elizabeth Miller, Tim Terfehr and Elliot Belgard. Also present were CEDA consultants Joshua Schuetz and Amber Patten, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Mike Sheplee, County Assessor and Scott Reimer, CEO/President of Federated Rural Electric Association.

Higgins requested that two changes be made to the agenda. The first was a correction to Item 7.1, changing the bills to be paid to include October 4-December 12, 2022. The second was the addition of item 6.7, a request from CEDA Regional Director Bryan Stading in regards to the copier in the EDA office.

Motion made by Belgard, seconded by Terfehr, to approve the agenda with the following revisions and additions, correction to Item 7.1, changing the bills to be paid to include October 4-December 12, 2022, add item 6.7 Request from CEDA Regional Director Bryan Stading in regards to the copier in the EDA office. Carried unanimously.

Motion made by Belgard, seconded by Anderson to approve the October 3rd and November 7th EDA board meeting minutes. Carried unanimously.

There was one item of old business, this entailing the approval of Martin County EDA staff to participate in regional and state economic development conferences.

Motion by Koons, second by Fosness to approve Martin County EDA staff attendance at state and regional economic development conferences. Carried unanimously.

Sheplee updated the board on the county's tax abatement program for new housing, stating that 23 homes have been approved for construction through the program. Sheplee asked that efforts be made to promote the program more locally, including press coverage. Schuetz said this would be done.

Reimer spoke to the board in regards to his request for \$28,500 in funding for a broadband project in Ceylon, entailing the connection of businesses and farms that were excluded from the grant being used to fund other connections in Ceylon.

Discussion was had regarding broadband access in Martin County.

Belgard asked whether there was precedent for EDA funding assistance for broadband projects. Koons said the EDA had contributed \$5,000 to an industrial park project in previous years, so precedent exists for the requested action.

Reimer said this project has facilities in the ground and is in the process of being completed.

Belgard said if the EDA takes action on the request, it should take the form of a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Terfehr, seconded by Miller to recommend to the Martin County Board of Commissioners that the Board considers an amount of \$28,500 to be used to fund Federated Rural Electric Association efforts to connect businesses in or near Ceylon, MN as part of their broadband project for the installation of fiber to the home, which businesses were not a part of the CDBG grant that the City of Ceylon received for the broadband project. Carried unanimously.

Schuetz provided the monthly client report to the board.

Schuetz and Patten updated the board on other EDA projects, including the broadband application project, the website update and the creation of community profiles. Schuetz said the broadband application has been run by other CEDA team members.

Patten reviewed EDA staff participation in the MAPCED conference with the board. Patten said broadband, workforce development, workforce mobility and agriculture were among the issues presented on.

Schuetz updated the board on the broadband application draft for Martin County and sought feedback from the board. Schuetz said the goal is to have minimums of 100mbps down/100mbps up speeds.

Koons asked whether the program is limited to fiber to the premise. Schuetz confirmed this.

Higgins said a reimbursement model with verification is being considered for the program. Belgard said this is necessary to ensure projects are completed and the county is protected.

Schuetz presented a request to the board for the funding of the Bean Town digital marketing campaign at a rate of \$600 per month for January, February and March, to be paid to Ad MFG. Schuetz said the agreement approved in September was to split costs for the digital marketing campaign between Bean Town and the EDA, with each taking half.

Motion by Koons, second by Terfehr to approve expenditures for the funding for the Bean Town Campaign digital marketing campaign at a rate of \$600 per month for January, February and March (2023), to be paid to Ad MFG (Fairmont, MN) . Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed board member terms with the EDA board and inquired whether Fosness would like to serve another term. Fosness affirmed and Higgins stated he will take that recommendation to the County Board.

Schuetz and Patten reviewed the draft of the Martin County EDA staff priority plan with the board. Koons requested that succession planning for businesses be added to the priority plan. Schuetz said this will be done.

Terfehr asked whether Stading will continue to offer the services of his consultants from RCEF. Schuetz said he is unaware of any arrangement through CEDA by which this would be done. Belgard said EDA staff are doing well in their roles and is pleased with the level of action undertaken by staff.

Higgins reviewed a request from Bryan Stading that the EDA board fund the copier in the EDA office, which Stading brought down in August on a lease. Standing's request was that the board fund the copier's lease from August to December at \$160 per month. Higgins informed the Board the county has a copier to use for EDA staff.

Motion by Koons, second by Miller to deny the request from Bryan Stading for reimbursement for copier use from August -December 2022 at \$160/month. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented the bills for review and payment, stating the total amount of bills is \$23,577 for October 4-December 12, 2022.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Anderson to approve and ratify the bills in the amount of bills is \$23,577 for October 4-December 12, 2022. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the year-to-date financial reports.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Belgard, second by Miller to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

The Martin County EDA board meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Brent Schultze, Board President

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Tim Terfehr, Board Secretary/Treasurer