

**Board Meeting Minutes of the Martin County Economic Development Authority  
March 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 and Jaime Bleess. Those absent were: Steve Fosness and Tim Terfehr. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Amber Patten (CEDA Consultant), Joshua Schuetz (CEDA Consultant) and Kandi Menne, President of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Bleess, seconded by Koons to approve the agenda with the following added items: SHRPA Introduction and Consider Request Letter of Support for Federal Grant Application for the Martin County Regional Public Safety and Justice Center.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Schultze to approve the minutes for the February 6, 2023 Martin County EDA Meeting as presented.

Fairmont Chamber of Commerce President Kandi Menne presented information to the board regarding the Chamber's Area Career Exploration (ACE) day for high school students. Menne requested \$1,500 from the board for printing and advertising costs related to the program. Menne also requested board support for the Martin County Leadership Program (MCLP).

Discussion was had regarding investing more into the ACE program and MCLP. Koons suggested giving the Chamber \$1,500 for ACE and \$1,000 for the MCLP. Following additional discussion, it was decided to allocate a total of \$3,000 to the Chamber and allow the chamber to determine the split for the two aforementioned for both programs.

Motion by Bleess, seconded by Schultze Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority hereby approve funding allocation to the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce for the Chamber's Area Career Exploration Program and Martin County Leadership Program totaling \$3,000; and to allow the Chamber to determine the split between both programs. Carried unanimously.

Patten and Schuetz reviewed February's client report with the board seven clients were served.

Patten and Schuetz reviewed other EDA projects with the board. Discussion was had regarding the possibility of setting up events to introduce more people to the Martin County EDA. Koons suggested an ice-cream social format.

Discussion was had regarding the proposed design of the Martin County EDA's website homepage by AD MFG. The board requested that staff return the design to Ad MFG and request a revamp with additional information about the county and its communities.

Schuetz discussed the appointment of board members to the Martin County Broadband Partnership Program Review Committee and asked that the board nominate three of its members to serve on the committee.

Schultze nominated Tim Terfehr to serve on the committee and Anderson volunteered to serve on the committee. Bleess nominated Koons to serve on the committee. Schuetz asked that, at the next Board of Commissioners meeting, one commissioner not already on the EDA board be nominated to serve on the committee.

Motion by Schultze, seconded by Bleess to approve the appointment of Anderson, Terfehr and Koons to the Martin County Broadband Partnership Program Grant Review Committee. Carried unanimously.

Patten discussed EDA sponsorship of the Breakfast on the Farm event. Anderson said the event serves as an opportunity for residents in cities to meet their farming neighbors. He noted that it would be a good opportunity to expose more people, especially farmers, to the EDA's services.

Motion by Schultze, seconded by Koons Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority hereby approve sponsorship of the "Breakfast on the Farm event in the amount of \$1,000 for the year 2023. Carried unanimously.

Discussion was had regarding the use of SHRPA to market the county to potential residents. Patten explained that SHRPA brings content creators into communities for a flat fee to take pictures and create content for the community, with the customer owning the content at the end of the process. Patten did solicit quotes from local photographers for similar services, but said the costs were higher and the EDA would not own the images at the end of the process, as this would require an additional fee. Patten asked the board to review the information presented and did not request any further action from the board. Koons asked Patten to contact Visit Fairmont and the Fairmont EDA to discuss the use of SHRPA.

Higgins discussed and requested the Board the need for a letter of support for Martin County's for a federal grant for the purposes of construction of a new Martin County Regional Public Safety and Justice Center in the county. Higgins requested the board sign a letter of support for the grant application.

Motion by Koons, seconded by Schultze Be It Resolved that the Martin County Economic Development Authority hereby approve and authorize the Board President to sign a letter of support for a grant federal grant application in the amount of \$2,000,000 for construction of the new proposed Martin County Regional Public Safety and Justice Center. Carried by majority vote with AYES: Anderson, Schultze, Miller, Bleess. NAYS: Koons. Motion carried.

Higgins reviewed the bills to be paid February 7, 2023- March 6, 2023 in the amount of \$327.75 with the board.

Motion by Koons, second by Bleess to approve and ratify Bills to be Paid for February 7, 2023-  
March 6, 2023 in the amount of \$327.75. Carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the CY2023 (March) Financials reports with the board.

With no further business to wit,

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

The Martin County EDA Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

---

Wes Anderson, Board President

---

Tim Terfehr, Secretary-Treasurer