

Board Meeting Minutes of the Martin County EDA

April 3, 2023

The regular meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by Wes Anderson at 5:15 p.m. Those present were Wes Anderson, Richard Koons, Tim Terfehr, Jaime Bleess, and Steve Fosness. Elizabeth Miller and Brent Schultze were absent. Also present were Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Amber Patten (CEDA Consultant), Joshua Schuetz (CEDA Consultant), Annie Nichols (CEDA Regional Director), and Erik Kjer (Fairmont Sentinel Staff Writer). John Gibeau (Mayor of Ceylon) was present virtually.

Schuetz corrected an error on the agenda, stating that the next meeting will take place on May 1st instead of May 9th.

Motion by Koons, second by Terfehr to approve the revised agenda. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Fosness, second by Koons to approve the minutes of the March 6th Martin County EDA board meeting. Carried unanimously.

Gibeau presented a request to the board for \$15,000 to fund utility locates in Ceylon for their broadband expansion. Koons recommended that the city apply for the Martin County Broadband Partnership Program grant. Schuetz said he would set a meeting with Gibeau to discuss an application for Ceylon's utility locates through the Martin County Broadband Partnership Program.

Patten and Schuetz reviewed March's client report with the board. A total of 10 clients were served during the month. They also reviewed other EDA projects with the board.

Discussion was had regarding the paying of a \$2,500 finder's fee for the sale of a local restaurant. The EDA had previously approved the establishment of the fee to incentivize sales. An inquiry was made from the current owner whether the new buyer, who found the business online, would be able to claim the finder's fee.

Bleess asked whether allowing the disbursement of the Finder's Fee on such grounds would set a bad precedent. Fosness said the fee would be given on a case by case basis, so it would not set a precedent. Schuetz said a new set of parameters could be created around the establishment.

Motion by Terfehr, second by Fosness to approve the awarding of the finder's fee to the new owner, dependent on the new sale.

Patten updated the board on the SHRPA project, stating that she brought the topic to the City of Fairmont, which declined a partnership in funding it, and Visit Fairmont, which ran out of time

during its board meeting to discuss it. Patten said funding partnerships for the project will likely need to be tabled until June.

Patten presented the second draft of the EDA website revision to the board. The new design has links to the different communities in Martin County and will offer translation into Spanish as well.

Patten presented quotes from several vendors for an EDA banner for the Breakfast on the Farm event. The board indicated a desire to go forward with the new EDA logo for the banner. Terfehr indicated a preference for a local vendor. The quotes were from Ad MFG, Minuteman Press and Vistaprint.

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Terfehr to move forward with a sign that has framing and the new logo from Ad Mfg at a cost of \$448. Carried unanimously.

During the meeting, Higgins brought up the topic of the Fund 8 RCEF Department of Employment and Economic Development Grant, stating that there is an overage of \$13,083.91 in the grant. He asked the board for their opinion on what should be done with the excess funds. The funding is currently being held by Martin County, and RCEF has requested the additional funds but has not yet billed for them. Koons mentioned that no action can be taken until the DEED grant is closed out.

Motion made by Koons, seconded by Terfehr to table the discussion until the DEED grant is closed out. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion by Fosness, seconded by Terfehr to approve the bills to be paid from March 7, 2023 to April 3, 2023. The motion was also carried unanimously.

Higgins reviewed the year-to-date financials with the board. A motion was made by Koons and seconded by Terfehr to receive and file, which was carried unanimously.

With no further business to wit,

Motion by Koons, seconded by Terfehr to adjourn the meeting, which was carried unanimously. The board meeting of the Martin County EDA was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Wes Anderson, Board President

Tim Terfehr, Secretary-Treasurer