Board Meeting Minutes of the Martin County EDA
October 5, 2026

The meeting of the Martin County Economic Development Authority was called to order by President Tim Terfehr at 5:15pm. Those present were: Billeye Rabbe, James Kloeckner, Ean Sinn, and Richard Koons. Also present were Danielle Hayter-Johnson, Scott Higgins, Amber Patten, and Fairmont Sentinel.

Agenda
Motion by Koons, and seconded by Kloeckner to approve the agenda.
Carried unanimously
Amend Agenda to add Childcare Conference in Willmar Minnesota. Motion by Sinn, and seconded by Rabbe to amend agenda.

Minutes
Motion by Rabbe, and seconded by Kloeckner to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2026
Carried unanimously

Presentations
Alejandra Beharano from Region 9 presented to the Board information on a Martin County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report. Region 9 is currently collecting data and will be hosting a Community event in the City of Fairmont. Rabbe mentioned that an event outside of City limits of Fairmont may be beneficial. Ean Sinn offered to host an event either in Welcome, Sherburn, or Trimont. Staff will reach out to Alejandra to help coordinate an event outside Fairmont. Beharano mentioned Region 9 could also help create a roadmap for manufacturing economic plans. Staff will also continue discussions with Region 9 to help with this.

Old Business
None

New Business
EDA staff presented and requested approval for submission of the SMIF FY27 Early Care & Education Grant application. The application is for $20,000 through SMIF's FY27 Early Care & Education Grant Program to establish a one-year Martin County Child Care Access & Capacity Pilot Program. The application is due October 6, 2026. Staff is requesting EDA approval to submit the application as presented. EDA staff will be presented to the Martin County Board of Commissioners meeting on October 6, 2026.
Motion by Koons, seconded by Rabbe to approve the submission of the Martin County EDA's SMIF FY27 Early Care & Education Grant application, as presented, requesting up to $20,000 to establish the one-year Martin County Child Care Access & Capacity Pilot Program, subject to SMIF grant requirements and required Martin County of Commissioners action.
Carried unanimously

EDA staff presented as part of the County 2025 Audit, the State Auditor is reviewing the documentation associated with Sections 3.8 and 3.9 of the agreement between MCEDA and Lakeview Methodist Health Services. Staff requested an update of operational and licensing information from Building Blocks Childcare Center. Shea Ripley, Director of Building Blocks

supplied the capacity and enrollment figures. Current licensed capacity - 97, Current enrollment - 54. Discussion ensued.
Motion by Sinn, seconded by Koons to confirm capacity and enrollment figures along with the latest licensing review and received along with documents to retain the supporting records for the 2025 County Audit.
Carried unanimously

EDA Activity Report
Hayter-Johnson reviewed the September EDA Monthly Activity Report.
No Board action was taken.

CY2027 Purposed Budget
Scott Higgins presented to the Board the CY2027 Purposed Budget.
Motion by Koons, and seconded by Kloeckner to approve the CY2027 Purposed Budget.
Carried unanimously

Open Discussion

- Koons mentioned 2026 Foundations of the Future: Child Care Is Economic Development Conference in Willmar, MN on October 20 and 21. Registration cost is $40, along with two nights of hotel, and mileage. The Board would like EDA staff Danielle to attend.
  Motion by Kloeckner, and seconded by Sinn to have Danielle attend Foundations of the Future: Child Care Is Economic Development Conference in Willmar, MN on October 20 and 21. Expenses of registration, hotel, and mileage to be paid.
  Carried unanimously

Adjournment
With no further business to wit,
Motion by Koons, and a seconded by Rabbe to adjourn the meeting
Carried unanimously
The board meeting of the Martin County EDA was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Tim Terfehr, Board President

Elizabeth Miller, Secretary/Treasurer