

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on Jan. 5, 2009 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members Bob Egan, Ralph Sitzberger, Emil Bakka, Charles Rayala, & Jim Behling; others Kelly Haverkamp, Dennis Lawrence, Matt Schreiber, Dawn Schmidt, George Nelson, Roger Weber, Bill Lochte, & Rosemary Leveille
Media present: Ken Anderson, & Eric Johnson
The following County Board members were excused:
The following County Board members were absent:

Agenda item # 2: Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves.

Approve Agenda Motion by Sitzberger, second by Rayala to approve the agenda to be handled in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Approve Minutes Motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2008 for Economic Development meeting by Rayala, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Agenda item # 5: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Dennis Lawrence and Matt Schreiber distributed and discussed a proposed Vilas County Economic Development strategy to be led by NCWRPC (on file in the UW-Extension office). It was explained that the process will take approximately 6 - 8 months. Egan stated that the urgency for this county is Land Use Planning and the commitment of this committee being involved with the towns and broadband issues. He asked if this could also be worked on while developing the strategy for the county. Lawrence stated that this could take place and would like to come back to the committee in March with the first part of the strategy outline completed for their perusal, questions by both sides, and clarifications. **A motion by Bakka, second by Behling to form a subcommittee to study the broadband issues. The Broadband Advisory Committee members will be Chair, Ralph Sitzberger; Vice-Chair, Jim Behling; Roger Weber, Bill Lochte, Jeff Collins and Ted Bogeman. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item #6: Economic Development Reports and updates - **A)** Committee strategies for 2008 – Haverkamp gave the committee a copy of the Vilas Vision for Vitality strategies Progress Report (a copy is on file in the UWEX office). George Nelson, Presque Isle town supervisor, stated that he is concerned about the future services development of Presque Isle (i.e. healthcare, cell phone reception, internet, sustainable job infrastructure). He would like this committee to address the town and discuss the town's concerns for the future; Haverkamp will follow-up with him. **B)** Grow North – Egan stated that Grow North is still working on a possible grant for internet services for the 5 counties involved; **C)** other Economic Development Activities – Haverkamp gave the committee members folders on upcoming broadband issues and a flyer on the 2009 Wisconsin Economic Development Association conference in January.

Agenda item # 7: Budget/Approval of Bills – Leveille provided updated budgets for 2008 & 2009.

Agenda item # 8: Out-of County Travel – **Motion by Bakka, second by Sitzberger to allow one member from this committee to attend the 2009 Wisconsin Economic Development Association conference. The designated member will be Jim Behling. Motion carried, all voting aye. Motion for Rayala and Egan to attend the Community Transportation Association transit planning project on Tuesday, January 13th in Rhinelander. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Agenda item # 9: Correspondence and Communications - Haverkamp read the letter from the Community Transportation Association provided by county Supervisor Ron De Bruyne.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 2, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. **Motion by Behling, second by Rayala to start the future meetings for 2009 at 8:00 a.m. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Adjournment: Motion by Rayala, second by Sitzberger to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.
Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille