

Economic Development Committee Meeting

May 3, 2010

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on May 3, 2010 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, Jim Behling, Ed Bluthardt, & Kathleen Rushlow; others Kelly Haverkamp, & Rosemary Leveille
Media present: Ken Anderson
The following County Board members were excused:
The following County Board members were absent:

Agenda item # 2: Introductions – Egan introduced and welcomed Ed Bluthardt, the newly assigned member to the committee.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Bakka, second by Sitzberger 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 April 5, 2010 by Sitzberger, second by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Agenda item #5: 2009 Budget Carryover – Leveille explained that the 2009 carryover of \$4,185.00 to the Special Projects line item has not shown up on the 2010 budget. Rushlow stated that the carryover was done and the money is in the account.

Agenda item # 6: Economic Development Reports and Updates – a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation – Bakka stated that at the last meeting the officers were voted on and the results are: President – Steve Burrill; Vice-President – Bill Lochte; Secretary – John McGraw; Treasurer – Jim Levandoski. They also formed 4 committees and seated the chairpersons: Executive Committee – all of the officers; Finance Committee – Jim Levandoski; Personnel Committee – Mary Cole Laub; and Projects Committee – Barry McLeane. There will be 2 meetings in June with a morning meeting and an afternoon collaborative session: June 1st will be with community businesses to get their ideas and input on what and how the VCEDC can progress, help, and add to the county; and on June 30th the meeting will be with community partners, i.e. North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), Nicolet College and others to see what is needed to assist them and the county in economic progress. b) Grow North – The next round of stimulus money will not be applied for because the 30% matching funds is simply out of their reach. c) Other Economic Development Activities – Sitzberger stated that he and Egan attended the board of directors meeting for NCWRPC, and he is very proud to be on the board. Some information was brought back for the committee. Also, Vilas County needs to get an at-large member on the board. Sitzberger stated that NCWRPC is doing very well and as a result the 2011 annual dues may be lowered. Egan stated that, providing approval of the Finance Committee, SonicNet will be receiving a \$250,000 loan from the county by way of the Public Land Trust to bring wireless broadband to approximately 80% of Vilas County. This process will be at least a two year project.

Agenda item # 7: Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –**Motion by Behling, second by Bakka to approve the budget report. Motion carried, all voting aye.** Haverkamp was directed to write a letter to the finance committee to inform them that the \$50,000 seed money for the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation will be requested by invoice in the coming month.

Agenda Item # 8: Out-of-County Travel – None for this month.

Agenda item #9: Correspondence and Communications – Haverkamp stated that the letter of support and the resolution for a study of economic development competitiveness and positioning from Vilas County will be sent as of today.

Future Meeting Dates/Items: The next regular meeting will be Friday, June 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Behling, second by Bakka to adjourn at 10:45a.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