

Economic Development Committee Meeting

December 6, 2010

Egan called to order the meeting of the Economic Development Committee at 9:00 a.m., on December 6, 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 & Charles Rayala; others Ken Stubbe, VCEDC Economic Executive Director; Roger Weber, Chances 'R; Kelly Haverkamp, UWEX, & Rosemary Leveille

Media present:

The following County Board members were excused:

The following County Board members were absent:

Introductions –

Everyone introduced themselves

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 November 1, 2010 by Behling, second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation – Ken Stubbe, the newly hired Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) executive director, was introduced by Egan. Stubbe gave his background and his economic development history. There is now an office located on Main St. in Eagle River for VCEDC with a one year lease. A letter from VCEDC will be sent out to the Vilas County Board stating how to contact Stubbe. Rayala, Vilas County board chair, welcomed Stubbe to the county, wished him good luck and stated that this is a very much needed venue in the County. The RFP for broadband coverage was unsuccessful and will be done again after some issues are resolved. Weber discussed his email conversation (on file if the UWEX office) with the committee and his concerns, especially the fact that “Link America” has never set foot in Vilas County and has taken the word of the big companies about coverage in our county. A VCEDC meeting will take place on December 6, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the broadband problems in Vilas County and the possible solutions. Egan asked Weber to attend the meeting and report next month.

b) Grow North – Stubbe stated that the corporation will be linking to the Grow North website. He was asked by them to push the “pellet” project to the forefront since they have an application in already and the broadband issue will also need to be addressed to link all of Wisconsin. Egan stated that at the Vilas County hosted meeting the main speaker was Lt. Patrick Schmidt who spoke on the issue of drugs here in the Northwoods. Many attending did not know the magnitude of the problem and were well informed by the meeting. All in all it was a very good meeting and very well received.

c) Other Economic Development Activities – Haverkamp distributed the information on the 2011 Governor’s Conference on Economic Development taking place in Madison this February. Egan stated that he would like to attend.

Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –

The budget update (on file in the UWEX office) was given to the members for their perusal. The following voucher was presented for approval: Eagle River Inn and Resort-\$80.00. **Motion by Behling, second by Bluthardt to approve the voucher presented. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

Out-of-County Travel –

Motion to approve Egan to go to the Governor’s Economic Development Conference in Madison was made by Behling, and seconded by Bakka. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Correspondence and Communications –

Nothing for this month.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Haverkamp noted she would not attend due to State mandated furlough.

Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. by Sitzberger, second by Bluthardt. 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