

Bluthardt, chair, called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 9:00 a.m., on June 4, 2012 in conference room #2, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members: Ed Bluthardt, Emil Bakka, Ralph Sitzberger, Chuck Hayes, & Lorin Johnson; others Ken Stubbe, Roger Weber, Colin Snook & Rosemary Leveille
Media present: Joe DeLaarschot
The following County Board member was excused:
The following County Board members were absent:

Introductions –

Everyone introduced themselves.

Approve Agenda: Motion by Sitzberger, second by Hayes 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 May 7, 2012 of the Economic Development Committee by Bakka, second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

- a) Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) – Stubbe distributed and discussed a Business Incubator Plan Summary, an Action Plan Map for Broadband, and his monthly report (all on file in the UWEX office). Stubbe stated that the opening for the Eagle River located incubator is coming along and they already have their first tenant. A grand opening is scheduled for June 25th. The VCEDC is working on 2 more locations one in the western part of the county and one in the northern. The broadband study that the VCEDC would like to have done by Access Engineering LLC (AE) will cost \$80,000. They have a commitment from the state for one-half of the funding and are looking to raise the other half. The Town of Phelps is interested in helping with the funding but need to discuss the amount and their source of funding before committing. AE will strictly do the study and does not promote any specific equipment or company to do the work. Bluthardt announced that he has been appointed to the VCEDC as one of the county representatives and also to the Northwoods Rail Commission. The “Rail” commission is made up of 8 counties and is looking to add 4 counties from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The east/west corridor is vacant as of now and may become active again with possible spur(s) for use by Vilas County.
- b) Grow North – Bluthardt postponed the appointment of a committee member to Grow North until next month. He will be discussing the appointment with Vilas County Chair, Steve Favorite. Bakka has expressed interest in becoming the representative.
- c) Other Economic Development Activities – Snook, Phelps town chair, stated that they have 2 interested parties in purchasing the Phelps nursing home and there is someone interested in a “Big Store” for the downtown area. The committee was informed that the CRD agent has been hired and will begin on the 2nd of July.

Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –

Leveille distributed the update of the budget. **Bluthardt made a motion to accept the budget report a second was made by Sitzberger. Motion carried.**

Out-of-County Travel –

Bluthardt made the motion for blanket travel approval to adjoining counties’ for any county supervisor appointed to regular meetings and/or commissions, second by Sitzberger. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Correspondence and Communications –

Nothing for this month.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, July 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Stubbe stated that he will be unable to make the next meeting.

Adjournment –

Bluthardt adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

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

Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille