

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 Chris Stark, Bill Lochte, Berry McLeane, Ken Stubbe, Barb Gibson, & 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 July 2, 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) – Bluthardt announced that the Grand Opening of the VCEDC incubator was very well received, impressive and well attended. Stubbe distributed and discussed a 2013 Budget and Report (on file in the UWEX office). A 2013 preliminary budget prepared by Barry McLeane was also given to the committee (on file in the UWEX office). Lochte explained how the VCEDC is progressing and some of the goals. The VCEDC was just informed that the Dept. of Commerce will no longer be covering half of the funds towards the broadband study. Barb Gibson from the Mapping Department was asked to join the meeting to explain the “Lidar” program that Vilas County will be implementing. The digital elevation data program that is acquired by aircraft will be able to produce detailed data of the land. This could be something that the broadband study group could possibly utilize if the timing is right and save anymore loss of time to get the study started. Bluthardt asked that the committee consider approving the continued support to the VCEDC. **Bakka made the motion to continue the support of the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation by requesting \$100,000 be put in the Economic Development budget for 2013 distribution to VCEDC, Sitzberger made the second. Motion carried unanimously.**

b) Grow North – The next meeting will be the general membership meeting in the Eagle River area on September 12th the location will be announced later. Bluthardt stated that at the last meeting there was a presentation on “international trade and exporting”.

c) Other Economic Development Activities – The Northwoods Rail Transit Commission meeting took place on July 27th. The group was asked to sign a letter in support of increasing the transit money budget for statewide purposes. He also shared the fact that there should be 2 representatives from each county and Vilas has only one. Bluthardt stated that whoever is interested should let Favorite, Vilas County board chair, know. Sitzberger will inform Favorite t Vilas County board chair hat he would like to be the second representative. Sitzberger stated that NCWRP will not be changing the annual dues for 2013, and they are also helping with the Lidar program.

Economic Development Budget/Approval of Bills –

Leveille distributed the update of the budget. The 2013/14 budget was presented to the committee for discussion and direction. **Sitzberger made the motion to approve the budget after discussion of the upcoming obligations, Hayes made the second. Motion carried.**

Out-of-County Travel –

No out of county was reported.

Correspondence and Communications –

Nothing for this month.

Future Meeting Dates/Items –

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment –

Bluthardt adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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

Submitted by: Rosemary Leveille