

## **Economic Development Committee Meeting**

**June 20, 2014**

Chairman Hayes called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 10:30 a.m. on June 20, 2014 at the Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Room #2.

**Present:** The following persons were present: County Board members: Wally Beversdorf, Carolyn Ritter, Chuck Hayes and Rocky Caffarella; others present included County Economic Development Director Bob Egan, Christopher Stark, and Nancy Anne Miller. Guests: Jason Hilger

**Absent:** Raquel Zortman-Bell

**Approve Agenda: Motion to accept the agenda to be handled in any order at the discretion of the Chair by Ritter and seconded by Beversdorf. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

**Accept Minutes: Motion to accept the Minutes of the Meeting taken on May 15, 2014 by Ritter and seconded by Beversdorf. Motion carried, all voting aye.**

### **Economic Development Reports and Updates –**

#### **Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) updates:**

- a. **Economic Development** – Egan updated the committee on two new businesses in the ER manufacturer building; he also explained what an “angel investor” is. The Central Wisconsin Economic Development revolving loan fund was explained. Boundary Waters building has some interest. Economic Development will be writing a grant for \$137,000. This grant would be used for a tinkers/makers space and maybe a robotics program. Egan explains to committee members what the incubators do and how they all work; including classes that are run. New businesses pay \$150 per month the first year and the second year is \$250 per month. Egan or Burrill to do a budget presentation at full county board in August or September. Directors Report on file.
- b. **Grow North** – There is no longer a committee member on this committee. Starks talked about the “fab lab” in Three Lakes and how to tap into the creativity for the youth. Railroad Commission was touched upon. Regional members will be going to Atlanta to the Woodworking Fair. Discussion on forest management in the state.
- c. **Railroad Commission Meetings** – included in Grow North.
- d. **Other Economic Development Activities** – Stark mentions a small digital grant he received for broadband. Egan discusses the broadband issues in our area and the \$230,000 that the ECD brought into Vilas County through grants. This money will be used for infra structures. Egan discusses the issues with the tribal broadband entity. Discussion. Starks updated the committee on the Town of Phelps being accepted into the Connect Communities Main Street Program.

**Monthly Budget Review/Statement of Bills** – Budget was reviewed.

**Out of County Travel** – Stark to Grand Rapids MI in June paid by the Economic Development Committee budget.

**Correspondence and Communications** – July meeting agenda items discussed. Budget and consolidation with UW to be on the agenda. Committee would like to meet with an entrepreneur from one of the incubators. New business class in Quick Books will be starting in October. Caffarella wants to know about this committee concerning why he should spend \$100,000. Egan states that the Economic Development Corporation will never be self-sufficient, that this is a return on an investment by creating jobs and creating a tax base.

**Future Meeting Dates/Items** – The next regular meeting will be July 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the manufacture incubator building on HWY 70 West. This will be a joint meeting with UWEX. Hayes wants to see the proposed agenda before it goes out.

**Adjournment** – Hayes adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder’s notations and are subject to approval by the committee. Submitted by: Gail Kukanich