

Economic Development Committee Meeting

May 15, 2014

Stark called the meeting of the Economic Development Committee to order at 1:07 p.m. on May 15, 2014 at the Business Incubator, 413 W. Pine St.

Present: The following persons were present: County Board members: Wally Beversdorf, Carolyn Ritter, Racquel Zortman-Bell by phone and Chuck Hayes; others present included County Economic Development Director Bob Egan and Jason Hilger. Guests: Tom Nitz. No media present.

Absent: Rocky Caffarella

Selection of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair: Nomination by Ritter to nominate Beversdorf, Ritter withdraws her nomination for Beversdorf and nominates Hayes. Hayes accepts position. Motion to grant unanimous approval of Hayes to Chair by Beversdorf, seconded by Ritter. Hayes nominates Beversdorf as Vice-Chair, Zortman-Bell interested, Beversdorf nominates Zortman-Bell. Vote is as follows: Hayes votes for Beversdorf, Ritter, Zortman-Bell and Beversdorf votes for Zortman-Bell. Vote was majority for 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 March 4, 2014 by Beversdorf and seconded by Ritter. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Determination of Future Meeting Dates: Hayes discussed the meeting dates. Zortman-Bell would like to keep specific days and times. Stark mentioned that the committee does not have to meet every month. Preference would be for late morning or early afternoon. Next meeting will be June 19th at 1:00 and the location TBD.

Economic Development Reports and Updates –

Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) updates:

- a. Economic Development – Hayes explained what this committee does. Egan went over the Executive Directors Report along with the Business Incubator Report explaining what the incubator has done in the last year and what they will be doing in the next year.(report on file) Egan gave the new committee an overview of the incubators. Manitowish Waters' incubator is now full with 5 businesses. There are 54 jobs related to the incubators, \$985,600 combined 2014 payroll with the economic impact of about \$5 million. There are 13 companies all generating some revenue. Egan explained the manufacturing incubator, loans and budget. Current annual budget total is \$100,000 from the county and \$60,000 from private and public investors plus a slice from the renters. Hilger working on the budget for next year. Functions of the committee and corporation explained. Beversdorf will donate some time to writing grants when needed.
- b. Grow North –Stark explained this agenda item. Next meeting in June in Minocqua.
- c. Other Economic Development Activities – Broadband – Egan discussed progress with the Tribe regarding broadband. Stark handed out a report on what he has been doing (on file).

Monthly Budget Review/Statement of Bills – Budget was reviewed. Consolidation of committees with UWEX was brought up and talked about. Hilger suggests going to L&J and talking about consolidation of some committees and looking at revising the standing rules. Hayes to talk with N. Miller from UWEX about consolidation between Economic Development and UWEX.

Out of County Travel – Stark to Grand Rapids MI in June and Indianapolis in August.

Correspondence and Communications – Stark asks about email versus snail mail of the agenda and minutes. Agenda and minutes will be emailed and snail mail again next month and transition into email only.

Future Meeting Dates/Items – The next regular meeting will be June 19th, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the manufacturer incubator on HWY 70 West. Waiting on July 17th date until questions regarding consolidation is worked out. June meeting could be a joint meeting. EDC to present a report to full Co. Board in July.

Adjournment – Hayes adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

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