

Meeker Count Economic Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday November 14, 2019 @ 5:30 pm
Meeker County Family Services Building in Suite 200

Present: Tim Benoit, Chuck Lietzau, Mark Smith, Mike Doering, Dennis Loch, Mike Housman, Brent Bengtson, Chris Loew & DSI Consultants Lisa Graphenteen & Vince Robinson, Darlene Kotelnicki, Connie Lies

Absent: Joe Tacheny, Mike Lokken

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Mike Housman.

Public comment: no one present

M/S Benoit/Smith to approve the agenda Motion Carried

M/S Smith/Bengtson to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2019 meeting. Motion carried

M/S Benoit/ Bengtson to approve the September & October 2019 financial summaries. Motion carried

Darlene Kotelnicki and Connie Lies attended the EDA board meeting to inform the board about the "LFD Downtown Council Inc. and the Minnesota Mainstreet Program. The Minnesota Mainstreet Program will do an assessment of the downtown and will then put together a roadmap for the Downtown Council with specific suggestions on how to help with the downtown. They also asked if any board members would like to be on the steering committee for the MN Mainstreet Program.

Consultants Lisa Graphenteen and Vince Robinson asked the board for guidance on expenses that were outside of DSI's contract of staff time and expenses related to services. The Board authorized approval for DSI and Chris Loew to make decisions on organizational expenses that are within the budget and follow organizational policies. DSI will manage the budget and the Board will maintain their current practices of reviewing the budget and financials.

Consultant Lisa Graphenteen followed up with the board regarding possible options for the RLF monies and how they would like to possibly move forward. The board asked Lisa to put together a couple options and bring it to a future meeting.

M/S Bengtson/Benoit to approve the 2020 EDA meeting dates and location. Motion carried

UPDATES:

- ❖ DSI Consultants – we are reaching out to each community to determine their interest in discussing housing needs and strategies to bring the housing committee work back to each community. Lisa is working with a couple of developers on workforce housing projects in Litchfield and Watkins. There has been a significant increase in business referrals with a variety of opportunities on the horizon for new businesses and expansions if they come to fruition. Collaborated with the Chamber to sponsor an Opportunity Zone event which was well attended. RLF reports for the past two years were also submitted to DEED.
- ❖ Community –
 - EV – a fiber war is going on between the fiber companies in the area, the city EDA sold their apt building, they have been working with a developer about building some apts out by the old EDA units, BI worldwide is till trying to sell their building

- o Darwin – Memorial project is moving along nicely, Darwin Tavern in being completely remodeled and plan to open early 2020
- o Dassel – a new shop in town is doing some painting classes and sell curios, Thirsty's Tavern has a new owner
- o Cosmos – the Learning Center is finishing up their 5-million-dollar project, Falcon Industries project is on track
- o Watkins – there was a fiberoptic war going on between fiber companies, Faber Building Supply is building a spec home to be sold, the new owners of the grocery store have taken over
- o LFD – First Districts' and Bobcat's expansions are moving along

Misc. –

- o Chris checked with the board about renewing our membership with the Minnesota Broadband Association. The board agreed with renewing the 2020 membership.

M/S Loch/Bengtson to approve adjourning the meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion Carried