

Meeker County Economic Development Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday July 8, 2021 @ 5:30 pm  
Meeker County State/Highway Building Breakroom

Present: Tim Benoit, Mark Smith, Eric Holt, Steve Schmitt, Mike Lokken, Brent Bengtson, Chris Loew & DSI  
Consultant Lisa Graphenteen

Absent: Chuck Lietzau & Danny Scheifelbien

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by President Steve Schmitt.

Public comment: no one present

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

M/S Benoit/Lokken to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting with no additions or corrections.  
Motion carried

M/S Smith/Holt to approve the May and June 2021 financial summaries. Motion carried.

M/S Bengtson/Holt to approve donating \$500 to the MN Rural Broadband Coalition. Motion Carried

M/S Benoit/Lokken to approve the proposed 2022 Budget. Motion carried

M/S Bengtson/Mark to approve moving forward with the following changes to the Revolving Loan Fund Program Plan –

- Remove deposit fee
- Only need to complete the full application
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Meeker County's American Rescue Plan committee asked the EDA for feedback on businesses needs in the county. Consultant Graphenteen sent a survey out to businesses that were assisted with CARES and BRG monies as well as the Chamber network to find out what were still some of their needs. The results from the survey was discussed with board members to figure out how some of these needs could be met and about how much that would cost. The needs the board members thought they could possibly help with were to help create a program to help with workforce recruitment and training.

Housing Development Projects-

- \* Lumber One has sold their 4<sup>th</sup> and last house, so all 4 houses have been sold. They are going to put building the next 4 on hold till this fall to see what lumber prices do
- \* D. Tysk – Eden Valley – our attorney will be drafting the loan documents, going to start building late Aug first part of September. He has started up discussions again for the LFD project

UPDATES:

*Economic Development:*

- Deed has a lot of additional funding projects and programs rolling out

*Office:*

- Just shared with board members the application we had received for our Watkins area board of director opening.

*Community Updates & Challenges:*

- Eden Valley street project is going well
- Darwin – bars are busy but not able to open till 4 because of not enough help

MISC:

Star Lake Fabrication will be doing an auction next month and will be done/closing their doors the end of August.

M/S Smith/Bengtson to approve adjourning the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted  
Chris Loew, Secretary