

Meeker County Economic Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday November 11, 2021 immediately following MCDC mtg
Meeker County State/Highway Building Breakroom

Present: Mark Smith, Steve Schmitt, Brent Bengtson, Danny Scheifelbien, Chuck Lietzau, Eric Holt, Mike Lokken & Chris Loew

Attendance Via Zoom: Tim Benoit – recovering from COVID, DSI Consultant Lisa Graphenteen

Absent: Joe Kuechle

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President Steve Schmitt.

Public comment: no one present

M/S Schiefelbein/Holt to approve the agenda with the date change under “Approve meeting minutes from”.
Motion Carried

M/S Bengtson/Smith to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting minutes with no additions or corrections.
Motion carried

M/S Smith/Holt to approve the September & October 2021 financials. Motion carried.

M/S Smith/Bengtson to approve the 2022 Meeting dates. Motion carried.

Consultant Graphenteen informed the board the Meeker County Commissioners approved the updated RLF Loan Application on October 19, 2021.

M/S Schiefelbein/Holt to approve the nomination for board member Brent Bengtson to serve on the Housing Task Force Committee.

Housing Development Project Updates-

- * Lumber One –
 - o Closed on their loan and the funds have been distributed
- * Another developer is considering purchasing some lots North of the Lumber One project and is looking to build some additional homes
- * Greg Schilling project – possibly looking at applying for a MN Housing Development Grant but might run into some challenges. Consultant Graphenteen was going to work w/ Greg & get some #'s together and possibly look at other ways to get some funds to help with his building project
- * D. Tysk –
 - o Looking at building an apartment complex in Dassel similar to the one's he built in Watkins and is building Eden Valley

Consultant Graphenteen discussed with the board about the Meeker County EDA possibly being a seed funder for a grant program to increase the number of childcare slots in Meeker County and donating funds to the Meeker County Childcare Grant Fund. Some items of discussion were:

- Big part of the discussion is to whom else will be donating to this fund

- Some other donations could possibly come from a DEED grant, APRPA funds- county or townships
- Maybe set up some type of a business matching fund mechanism/challenge

These monies will be used to help support grants, low interest/deferred loans to help get a Meeker County Child Care providers and Centers up and running, help w/financial barriers the providers might be running into.

M/S Holt/Lokken to approve matching up to \$10,000 to the Meeker County Childcare Fund if matched by other businesses in Meeker County.

UPDATES:

Economic Development:

- Had 4 different business calls/meetings
- We should be meeting soon with SWIF on the new Main Street funding for Litchfield.
- We provided a letter of support to MMDC as they seek additional loan funding.
- Provided technical assistance to the Grove City EDA as they look to get their group operating again.

Community Updates & Challenges:

- Eden Valley – D. Tysk project going well, the city is going to be updating their strategic plans, they received a Small Cities Development Grant to help 20 homes and 6 businesses
- Cosmos – Lietzau Taxidermy's building is almost done, another business is looking at buying a building in Cosmos
- Darwin – has been quiet
- Grove City – board member Lokken was going to try and connect with the GC mayor to see if there is anything he can do to help

M/S Scheifelbien/Holt to approve adjourning the meeting at 7:10 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted
Chris Loew, Secretary