

Meeker County Economic Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday Sept 9, 2021 @ 5:30 pm
Meeker County State/Highway Building Breakroom

Present: Tim Benoit, Mark Smith, Steve Schmitt, Brent Bengtson, Danny Scheifelbien, Joe Kuechle, Chuck Lietzau, Chris Loew & DSI Consultant Lisa Graphenteen

Absent: Mike Lokken & Eric Holt

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Vice President Tim Benoit.

Public comment: no one present

M/S Bengtson/Lietzau to approve the agenda with the addition of uses for Childcare Fund. Motion Carried

M/S Smith/Bengtson to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2021 meeting with no additions or corrections. Motion carried

M/S Bengtson/Scheifelbien to approve the July and August 2021 & Christiansons 2021 6 month ended financial summaries. Motion carried.

Housing Development Project Updates-

- * D. Tysk –
 - o Eden Valley Project has started. Loan closing was completed and broke ground on August 16, 2021
 - o Watkins apartments are completed. Started leasing in September.
 - o LFD Project is off the table for now
- * Lumber One – LFD - with lumber prices stabilizing they are ready to move forward with their PH II Building project. They will be building 4 more houses similar to their last project and asked the EDA to help fund their Phase II project the same as their Phase I project.

M/S Smith/Bengtson to approve Lumber One's Phase II Project funding request for \$600,000 for a construction loan and homebuyer gap financing. Motion Carried

Consultant Graphenteen made the adjustments to the Revolving Loan Fund Application and submitted to the state for approval. She received notice the RLF application was approved with a couple little changes. Changes were made and submitted to the board.

M/S Kuechle/Schiefelbein to approve the adjusted Revolving Loan Fund Application and recommend approval to the County Board.

Consultant Graphenteen discussed with the board about using some of the allocated Childcare monies to help seed or be the starter for a Childcare Fund. Some ideas these funds might be used for are: grants, low interest/deferred loans to help get a Childcare provider up and running, help w/financial barriers the providers might be running into. The Board was open to the idea of providing funds to the effort and recommended that guidelines be presented at the next meeting.

UPDATES:

Economic Development:

Consultant Graphenteen briefly reviewed the DSI September Activity report and some of the goals that have been attained since they were established.

Community Updates & Challenges:

- Eden Valley - D. Tysk's project well on the way, finishing up a road improvement project w/infrastructure, the city has been approved for a Small Cities Development Grant, theres been some interested parties looking at the BI building, Steve met w/ Karla from the HRA regarding the 8 plex that is for sale
- Dassel – Mookies, the new restaurant in town, has opened
- Watkins – they have been trying to sell the property on Hwy 55
- Darwin – Monday September 13, they will be dedication their new vet memorial
- Cosmos – The remodeled Special Needs School held an open house to show off their state of the art building, Lietzau Taxidermy successfully found a piece of property to build on and the construction process has started. The building should be completed and they should be moved in by the first of the year. P.E.C.E.(paper, electronicd, cardboard & everything else in between) a recycling business in town, will recycle anything that nobody else will

M/S Scheifelbien/Benoit to approve adjourning the meeting at 6:48 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted
Chris Loew, Secretary

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