

Meeker County Economic Development Authority
Special Meeting
Thursday December 19, 2024 @5:30 pm
Meeker County State Highway Building Breakroom
Litchfield, Minnesota

Present: Kim Dolan, Mark Smith, Terri Boese, Steve Schmitt, Joe Kuechle, Mark Smith, Brent Bengtson, Chris Loew & Consultant Graphenteen via Zoom.

Absent: Danny Schiefelbein, Jason McCoy & Butch Schmeling

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Steve Schmitt

Public comment: no one present.

M/S Bengtson/Boese to approve the agenda. Motion Carried

Consultant Graphenteen presented information about using some of our housing resources to establish a Local Housing Trust Fund and applying for matching \$'s through the state for the Housing Trust Fund.

M/S Dolan/Boese to approve moving forward with setting up a Meeker County Housing Trust Fund and preparing the Housing Task Fund draft ordinance to bring to a county commissioners meeting. Motion carried.

Graphenteen reviewed a preliminary loan request from 225 N Sibley Avenue in Litchfield. The downtown building has sat vacant for many years due to a fire and now has a developer interested in making a significant investment into the revitalization of the property. It would be a mixed-use property with commercial on the first floor and rental on the second story. Graphenteen outlined some preliminary scenarios for EDA funding that would use resources from both the Housing funding and RLF. After a lot of discussion there was a motion by Bengtson and seconded by Kuechle to deny the funding request, but it was clarified by staff that the developer is not asking for funds at the current time, just feedback from the EDA before they submit a loan request. After further discussion there was a motion by Bengtson and seconded by Kuechle to rescind the motion. There was then more discussion amongst board members regarding what would be a reasonable request for the project, they asked Consultant Graphenteen to go back to the developer and talk with him about his amount and terms.

M/S Boese/Bengtson to approve adjourning the meeting at 6:55pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by
Chris Loew, Secretary