

EDA Meeting Minutes



Regular Meeting
Thurs. July 21, 2016
3:00 p.m.
3rd Flr. EOC
Detroit Lakes, MN

Meeting called by:	Barry Nelson
Type of meeting:	Regular Meeting
Attendees:	Larry Knutson, Abby Anderson, Chris Sherman, Chuck Jost, Hank Ludtke
Board members absent:	Paul Joyce
Other Attendees:	Laura McKnight, Mary Hendrickson, Guy Fischer

Agenda Topics

1. **Call Meeting to order:** Barry Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** motion to approve agenda by Ludtke, 2nd by Jost – motion carried.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (6/16/2016):** motion to approve by Knutson, 2nd by Anderson - motion carried.
4. **Housing:**
 - **(RE MURL Home: 2058 2nd St., Lake Park; Pearson):** Note – new Contract for Deed signed (by Nelson) because what the State provided wasn't an updated format so auditor rejected it.
 - **Approval/Paying Bills:** From Check Register/Invoices Presented: Workshop \$0.00, Hwy 34 Group Home \$0.00, Low Income Public Housing \$2,419.16, Willow Property \$317.75, Maple Ave. Apts. \$2,729.42, Hidden Hills Group Home \$0.00, West River Townhomes \$5,647.99, and Section 8 Voucher \$16,259.06. Motion to approve bills, financial statements and reports (Ludtke, Sherman 2nd) motion carried.
5. **Economic Development Update:**
 - **Frazee Industrial (Mowing quotes):** 2 quotes were obtained from RDO (\$500) and Hometown Boys (\$330); motion to authorize low quote for mowing at Frazee Industrial by Ludtke, 2nd by Sherman – motion carried.
 - **Budget/Levy Discussion:** Preliminary levy discussion led to a desire for MMCDC to pull out the allocated administration fees to determine revenue projections prior to setting levy.
 - **Broadband** – Constituent who works out of her home (her husband does as well) and lives in Pearl Lake asked Commissioner for assistance in improving local broadband services and was aware of DEED grant that provides (50% match). Staff was asked to wade in to find out more information and contacted Arvig who plan to apply for the grant, but have a large territory and applied for 9 projects last year which did not receive funding. Staff spoke to Diane Wells, State manager of the Broadband program who provide more detail on the DEED grant and also is seeking a contact for Century Link (another provider in our area) who has Federal funds (Federal Connect America Fund II from the FCC to deploy broadband service to over 114,739 locations in MN. Interest in determining priorities and getting more information. The EDA Bd. directs staff to learn more about broadband opportunities and recognizes that a plan may be needed. There is a need to get Co. Bd. direction on this as well.
 - **Gary's Furniture:** discussion of pre-demolition report received from MPCA. The EDA Bd. wanted staff to develop a bid document for demolition of Gary's Furniture. The EDA Bd. asked staff to look at phasing the demolition relative to asbestos mitigation and was interested to determine if there was any outside interest in saving the old train car inside Gary's Furniture. Additionally there were some 12'x12" tiles that were lost prior

to being tested by the engineering firm that conducted the pre-demo survey. The EDA Bd. requested that these tiles be tested for asbestos.

- **Wind/Solar Hybrid Projects:** Red Lake Falls project moving forward; developer discussions with OTP regarding power purchase agreement and avoided costs study conducted. Audubon and Frazee projects would have different finance source (USDA's Rural Utility Service) and more will be known about the availability of funding after the election. If funding is available developer feels confident that project construction could be started in Spring of 2017. Staff working with Dept. of Commerce to develop and provide close out loan agreements for the project feasibility study conducted by Juhl Energy for Audubon and Frazee. Staff also to begin working on final RSDP grant due in late August.
- **Workforce Planning:** 5 local business have agreed to conduct survey's (SJE Rhombus, Lakeshirts, Essentia, Ecumen and BTD) to look at needs related to housing, child care and transportation. The underlined businesses survey' s are pending.
- **RAC/Shell Lake Block** – preliminary plan development: vision, goals/objectives; NPS to help with plan conceptals once preliminary plan has been developed.
- **PS4 grant for Audubon:** staff relayed to the EDA that Partnership 4 Health needed some clarification as to which option the County Bd. preferred relative to requesting \$10,000 in grant funding to make school zone safety improvements (crosswalk, signage, lighting improvements) in conjunction with 4th St. by LPA elementary school. Commissioners Nelson and Knutson clarified that of the two options that were discussed option 2 (install sidewalk with new crosswalk with signs and streetlights) estimated at \$27,925 was the preferred option and that the county was prepared to make up the difference/gap in cost with SMART funds.
- **Meeting** with DMRA and DL to discuss Cooperative Agreement and Maintenance Agreement on 7/25
- **Otter Tail Resort Study** (almost completed): Discussion with Nick Laird (Co. tourism/marketing director) and Ryan Pesch (Univ. of MN Extension) who developed the study; initial finding of interest: 114 resorts and campgrounds outspend 8,100 seasonal/vacation homes by \$14 million dollars annually (lodging not included in that number). Resorts and campgrounds occupy a total of 1.5% of lakeshore vs. the 24% of total lakeshore that seasonal homes occupy in OT County. As part of its resort study, OT is looking at tax abatements and other options for helping resort owners. Staff will provide study to EDA members once its completed.
- **NFL - Super Bowl - DL Children's Health project:** Staff facilitated grant opportunity and passed on to City of DL which has been selected to receive grant funds for children's health related project in conjunction with super bowl to be held in MN (2017/2018). Grant value up to \$50,000.
- **Keven Beyer/Osage Grocery Store** – looking for financing options to make improvements to local grocery store that has been closed for two years. Staff working with WCI to explore financing options.

6. **Open Forum: N/A**

7. **Adjourn:** Barry Nelson adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Guy Fischer

EDA Coordinator

/s/ Barry Nelson

EDA Board President