

## EDA Meeting Minutes



**Regular Meeting**  
**Thurs. April 20, 2017**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Flr. Bd. Rm.**  
**Detroit Lakes, MN**

<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Barry Nelson
<b>Type of meeting:</b>	Regular Meeting
<b>Attendees:</b>	Larry Knutson, Abby Anderson, Chris Sherman, Corey Askin, Hank Ludtke
<b>Board members absent:</b>	
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Mary Hendrickson, Laura McKnight, Guy Fischer, LeAnn Mouw

### Agenda Topics

1. **Call Meeting to order:** Barry Nelson called the regular meeting to order at 3 p.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Approval of Agenda:** motion to approve by Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Askin –motion carried.
  - **Oath** – given to Ludtke and Askin
4. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes (2/16):** motion to approve by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherman - motion carried.
5. **Housing:**
  - **Review financials and approve paying bills:** motion to approve by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Askin - motion carried.
  - From Check Register/Invoices Presented: Workshop \$1,143.22, Hwy 34 Group Home \$0.0, Low Income Public Housing \$6,160.27, Willow Property \$466.58, Maple Ave. Apts. \$2,846.88, Hidden Hills Group Home \$0.0, West River Townhomes \$7,891.40, and Section 8 Voucher \$20,880.84.
  - In general all housing units are at full capacity; interest in breakdown (#'s ) of homeless and homeless youth in County (**Nelson requested staff to seek answers as part of Housing Instit. Process**); voucher discussion – available (60) – on hold for issuing any new vouchers; enough reserves to get us through this year; HUD – no budget yet; will HUD provide \$ for capital housing fund (normally about \$30-\$35,000 yr. Balance of accts for qtr. \$1,641,719.34 balance; **request staff Mary/Guy look for better rate for Midwest Savings Account.** Motion to accept financial reports by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ludtke, motion carried.
  - 2 quotes for Air Conditioning for Extension Office (Laney's \$2,639 and Green's \$2,648); Motion to approve low quote (Laney's) by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherman – motion carried.
  - FYI – MURL home in Lake Park has almost been vacant for 1 year (as of May 15<sup>th</sup>)– desires of board; previous discussion had looked at demolishing building and then offering the lot for sale to adjacent property owners (lot split) or other consider other options based upon requirements.

Does money from sale go to EDA? Or back into the MURL fund? What are the wishes of Lake Park? **Nelson, requested staff contact Lake Park** (Address of property: 5023 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Lake Park).

- **Contract for Service (MMCDC management of Co. HRA).** Per review request to revise and resubmit corrected contract. Motion to accept contract with corrections and provided \$145,000 per year cost remains unchanged by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ludtke, motion carries.

6. **EDA:**

- **Broadband**

LeAnn Mouw representing League of Women Voters (LWV) – review letter from LWV to Becker County EDA requesting County assistance in assisting LWV in hosting Broadband Forum for the public. Specifically asking for County help in recruiting local vendors, promoting the meeting via its website and with the media and use of the 3<sup>rd</sup> flr. conference room. LWV will provide logistical arrangements, a facilitator, publicity, audio and video production. “Expanded rural broadband access at an affordable price is critical to the needs of our residents because of its impact on small business, agriculture, children, education and the expectation of newcomers to our area” (LWV letter). Additional discussion about potential Co. grant program to help facilitate broadband development. There is a need to have funds in place in order to consider developing a local grant program/guidelines. Important to know where vendors are planning to expand to determine where the gaps and best bang for the buck is for expanding broadband service to underserved areas in the County. **Nelson requested staff contact Ms. Sinclair to glean story of potential homebuyer who did not purchase local property because of inadequate broadband service and provide to MN Rural Counties (MRC) who is collecting these stories as part of advocating to the legislature for broadband funding for rural MN.** Motion to authorize staff to help set up Broadband Community Forum by Askin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherman – motion carried.

- **Gary’s Furniture**

ECCO Midwest to begin asbestos removal of Gary’s Furniture on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion about next step quote strategy for general demolition for Gary’s Furniture and also to add the Anstadt and Fury properties to the quote. Knutson request that liability between Co. and City be addressed relative – an agreement of responsibility. Motion for staff to set up quotes for Gary’s Furniture in cooperation with the City of Frazee and the Anstadt and Fury buildings to develop quote to demolish said facilities by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ludtke – motion carried.

- **Wind Turbine Projects**

Red Lake Falls project seeking avoided cost from Otter Tail Power; per PUC hearing a administrative law judge will hear both sides and review submitted information and render a verdict regarding avoided cost. This paves the way for the Audubon and Frazee projects. The Audubon project is scheduled for Spring 2018. The Frazee project would presumably also be conducted during this time frame, but the funding mechanism to provide capital for the project is different.

- **MN Housing Partnership’s Housing Institute process**

Begins May 9-10<sup>th</sup>, DL group will meet quarterly over a period of 1.5 years. Preliminary projects/issues identified by the group: Housing Plan review/revamp-update; Explore-Develop Community Land Trust for creating perpetually affordable housing (home ownership); Downtown redevelopment on main street in Frazee per Gary’s Furniture, Anstadt and Fury Bldg. demolition. Mahube’s partnership with DW Jones to build 36 units for homeless and low income rentals. Other issue include education for renters and homeowners and education for helping with the transition from renting to home ownership in the County.

7. **Open Forum: Nelson requested staff look at DNR grant funding availability to facilitate facility/trail development in the County.**

8. **Adjourn:** Barry Nelson adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Guy Fischer

EDA Coordinator

/s/ Barry Nelson

EDA Board President