



# BECKER COUNTY

*Economic Development Authority*

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## BECKER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

**Thurs. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
3:00 P.M.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room  
Becker County Court House  
Detroit Lakes, MN**

**REGULAR MEETING**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

**THE BECKER COUNTY EDA WILL ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE BY PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING HOUSING & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

### **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1) Call Regular Meeting to Order
- 2) Approval of Regular Board Agenda
- 3) Approval of Regular Minutes from November EDA Board Meeting
- 4) Consent Items – Approval Needed: Check Registers, Paying Bills, and Financials
- 5) Housing Updates:
  - **Public Hearing** – approval of the PHA Annual Plan (no changes from 2021) If there is no one to comment on the Plan, the hearing is closed.
  - **Public Housing**
    - Court Hearing (Jerome)
    - Write-off 2021 Bad Debt (needs Board Approval)
    - 2022 Budget (needs Board Approval)
  - **WRT** - Write-off 2021 Bad Debt (needs Board Approval)
  - **MURL** - Skramstad Cancellation of Contract
- 6) Economic Development
  - **Lake Park Lot (#510251504) Inquiry** – Not a buildable lot inquiry to purchase and gift/convey lot to adjacent homeowner – assessor valuation recently established at \$2,800. *See related map.*
  - **ARPA – HOMETOWN Fiber – FYI:** Assessment Work Underway – crew in area. Consultant questions sent to Arvig and MIDCO seeking proposal clarifications. If interested - see related questions that have been attached.

- **ARPA – Boys and Girls Club Playground Project (DL) – County/Township Funding Consideration Request:** *See attached letter from Pat Peterman, Executive Director (staff has asked for more specific information relative to ARPA guidelines)*
- **ARPA – Cornerstone Project (Frazee) – County/Township Funding Consideration Request:** *To-date \$610,000 out of a needed \$870,000 has been raised; Staff was approached by its executive director (Karen Pifher, a resident of Frazee) to determine if the County and or Townships would be interested in considering a contribution for capital renovations/equipment. COVID has adversely affected various elements of the project including building delays which led to operational constraints/losses and construction costs increases (30%). See related attachments that provide an overview of the project and estimates for needed sewer/water/HVAC infrastructure improvement costs.*
- **ARPA – ED Video Discussion – Workforce/Other – related articles to facilitate discussion:**
  - [The worker shortage is affecting every corner of the state. But it’s hitting Greater Minnesota especially hard. | MinnPost](#)
  - [Officials say a shortage of housing, not jobs, is crimping economic development in Greater Minnesota | MinnPost](#)
  - Connection between Childcare and Workforce:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/19/great-resignation-mothers-forced-to-leave-jobs>.
  - Email Excerpt response from Chet Bodin (DEED) on 12/7/21 when asked about % of Female Employment by Industry over time (MN) attributable to lack of Childcare access:  
“ As far as changes to female employment, I’d recommend the [Quarterly Employment Demographics](#) tool. It doesn’t answer your question directly, but does allow us to measure the percent of female employment by industry over time. Between 2018 and 2020, the percent of female workers decreased significantly in a few industries such as wholesale trade (-4.5%), Retail Trade (-5.1%), Management (-6.6%), Healthcare (-1.7%), Arts, Entertainment & Rec (-11.2%) and Manufacturing (-1.6%). On the other hand, the share of female employees has increased in a few other industries, such as Real Estate (+6.5%), Professional & Tech Services. (+3.1%), and Other services. (+4.3%). Of course, the total number of female workers lost in each industry depends on the size of the industry. For example, even though the decrease in share of female workers in Manufacturing and Healthcare are relatively small, those industries employ a large amount of folks so it would be considered a significant loss. Also, we can’t say that these changes are a direct result of a lack of childcare, but they provide quite a bit of insight nonetheless.”
  - [Rural by Choice - Otter Tail Lakes County Association](#) (OT Effort to attract workers to area)
- **ARPA – Affordable Housing Infrastructure and Firehall Infrastructure Projects (Callaway) – County ARPA Funding Consideration Request for Firehall:** *See related attachment – some Firehall estimate information will be forthcoming,*
- **ARPA – Frazee Industrial Land for Affordable Housing Update** – Frazee has not yet provided a letter stating their interest and intended purpose for receiving Frazee Industrial land for developing affordable housing on the site. Staff recommends exploring MMCDC as a potential recipient of the land for the purposes of building affordable housing.

- 7) Balance Sheet – Budget to Actual
- 8) EDA Board – Open Forum
- 9) Adjourn