

Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Monday, April 10th, 2017
City Council Chambers

Board Members Present: Bob Anderson, Allen Rasmussen, Harley Droba, Wade Pavleck, Mike Hanson, Ron Nordby (Alternate)

Members Absent: Brian McBride

Staff Present: Paul Nevanen, Kyra Hasbargen, JoAnn Smith

Others Attending: Whitney Jackson (The Journal), Crystal Clance, Gary Kaunonen (KCC-TV)

Meeting called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chairman Rasmussen.

- 01 Approve agenda – **Motion by Anderson, a second by Hanson to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Approve minutes from 3/15/17 – **Motion by Anderson, a second by Norby to approve the 3/15/17 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 03 Public Comment – Crystal Clance questioned the new container facility in Duluth and if it will increase the rail traffic here. Nevanen responded there may be an increase, due to the expansion in Prince Rupert. Clance questioned if it will benefit this area in anyway. Nevanen stated it is hard to say at this time. Short discussion on rail increase and the new signal light on Highway 11 indicating there is a train crossing.
- 04 Treasurer’s Report – Chairman Rasmussen asked Nevanen to presented the CWT financial reports in Treasurer McBride’s absence for March and monthly bills for April in the amount of \$8,200.72. Nevanen noted a transfer of \$10,000 from JLR account to CWT and \$25,000 from JLR to KEDA. Nevanen added, bills for Midco, MN Power and Bremer have not been received yet due to the timing of the meeting. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Pavleck to approve the March CWT financial reports and bills for April in the amount of \$8,200.72 and a \$10,000 transfer from the JLR account to the CWT account and \$25,000 transfer from JLR to KEDA and pay the bills not received yet, once they arrive. Motion carried unanimously.** Nevanen presented the KEDA financials for March and bills for April in the amount of \$26,354.68. Nevanen added, bills for Midco, ODC and Bremer have not been received yet, **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Anderson to approve the March KEDA financial reports and bills for April in the amount of \$26,354.68 and to pay the bills not received yet, once they are arrive. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 05 Summer Network Social – Nevanen explained one of the Voyage Forward Destiny Driver’s, he is involved with and how they are planning to interview and survey some Rainy Lake homeowners along with others who are second home owners on Rainy Lake, adding they are working on ways to get the homeowners involved in the community. Nevanen explained a Summer Social idea in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, which will be held at Thunderbird Lodge with hor'dourves and drinks, and asked for the KEDA’s support on the Summer Social. Short discussion on the Social. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Pavleck to approve hosting a Summer Social at Thunderbird Lodge with light hor’dourves. Motion carried unanimously.**

- 06 Director's Report – Nevanen reported on Granite Digital as they continue to work on financing, design and details with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), adding Joe Mershon reports he is pleased with the progress and the support he is receiving from HPE, noting they are planning on traveling here next month. Nevanen stated he recently received a request from a Cold Weather Testing customer for an additional week of testing which will occur this week, adding JLR also announced their durability fleet will continue to run through July 1st. Nevanen noted the DEED grant application was submitted last week for funding of the next cold box. Anderson stated if the funding from DEED is not received, the project needs to proceed and the KEDA will need to look at discussing options with the City and County. Nevanen touched on the Regional Forest Products Alliance (RFPA) and stated representatives will be here later this month to tour the PCA Mill and discuss the group's advocacy issues, adding JoAnn Smith will also take part in the Minnesota Loggers Education Program in Tower this week as part of RFPA's outreach to help loggers with a range of resources. Nevanen noted he sits on the RRCC Healthcare Steering Committee and they continue to meet and discuss the healthcare initiative with the various stakeholders, adding he and Brad Krasaway of RRCC is exploring additional funding through the USDA and the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership. Nevanen mentioned the KEDA is currently in the process of refreshing and updating the KEDA website, and is planning to put out the next newsletter later this month. Anderson questioned reaching out to CN Rail to invite them to an upcoming KEDA meeting. Discussion on CN Rail and the timeline of the new cold box.
- 07 Other (City/County Updates) – Rasmussen referenced the Fischbach letter and thanked Nevanen for writing letters of support. Anderson reported the Airport Terminal Project is moving forward, noting the final roof panels have been completed and they have begun sheetrock and sealing the floors, adding the hope is to have the project completed the end of July or first week of August. Pavleck referenced the Island View Sewer Project, noting the project will be re-bid next week. Pavleck also referenced the Pineview Treatment Facility in Littlefork and its importance to the area adding, the need to have it closer to International Falls due to transportation costs and the facility isn't sufficient anymore. Pavleck noted they are currently working with the local Catholic Church, who owns a facility, and have come to an agreement on a price for the building which would come fully furnished, adding the proposal will go before the County Board tomorrow. Short discussion on the facility and ownership. Nevanen mentioned the Airport enplanements were up by 200 last month over last year.
- 08 Public Comment Period – None
- 09 The next board meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers. **Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.**