

# Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

City Council Chambers

**Board Members Present:** Bob Anderson, Allen Rasmussen, Wade Pavleck, Mike Hanson, Brian McBride

**Members Absent:** Harley Droba

**Staff Present:** Paul Nevanen, JoAnn Smith

**Others Attending:** Laurel Beager (The Journal), Dan McCarthy, Gary Kaunonen (KCC-TV),

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairman Rasmussen.

- 01 Approve agenda – **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Anderson to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Approve minutes from 5/15/17 – **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to approve the 5/15/17 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 03 Public Comment – None.
- 04 Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer McBride presented the CWT financial reports for May and monthly bills for June in the amount of \$5,953.37. **Motion by McBride, a second by Pavleck to approve the May CWT financial reports and bills for June. Motion carried unanimously.** McBride presented the KEDA financials for May and bills for June in the amount of \$21,098.02. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to approve the May KEDA financial reports and bills for June. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 05 SBDC Update - Smith – JoAnn Smith provided a summary of her activity as consultant as well as professional development activities, touching on the number of clients counseled, Junior Achievement, International Business Women’s Network, and QuickBooks Classes. Brief discussion followed on various programs available for businesses.
- 06 Director’s Report – Nevanen provided details on his Director’s Report including the Granite Digital Data Center Project, cold weather testing and the next cold box, the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) site Personnel matters, and other recent activity. He noted that he conducted an annual review for Kyra Hasbargen, and suggested the Personnel Committee schedule a meeting to discuss the review as part of the 2018 Budget. Discussion followed on the FTZ site and the planned expansion of the overpass. Pavleck suggested inviting Kevin Soucie of CN Rail to a future meeting.
- 07 Other (City/County Updates) – Anderson reported that the City is developing a Business Subsidy Policy on behalf of Granite Digital tax abatement incentive as well as looking at re-zoning for the project. He also stated that the community was very busy with projects. Hanson referenced Birchdale’s America’s Parade with the superhero theme and the greatest potluck that follows the parade. He thanked the paper for their coverage and also reminded the board of their commitment to meet out-county and volunteered Birchdale for the July or August meeting. McBride reported that he’s hearing overall support for the International Falls Business Park Expansion but the need for buffer areas for the neighbors. Pavleck reported briefly on the Island View Sewer Project and the Public Hearing recently concluded was overwhelmingly positive and construction could begin

this Fall. Rasmussen asked about the status of the cell tower at Rainy Lake Houseboats. Anderson referenced a recent Minneapolis Star Tribune article on the growth of ATV ridership and trail expansion in the state, including the Voyageur Country ATV Club's efforts to expand trail systems into Koochiching County. After some discussion, **a motion by Anderson; seconded by Hanson to write a letter of support to the Voyageur Country ATV Club of their expansion efforts. Motion carried unanimously.**

- 08 Public Comment Period – Dan McCarthy cautioned the Board on ATV activity noting that while riders do spend money, they need to respect the environment and can be destructive to the ecosystem. He reiterated that KEDA and the County should concentrate efforts on activities that provide benefits to the County.
- 09 The next board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the County Boardroom. **Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.**