

Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Monday, July 12th, 2017

Koochiching County Boardroom

Board Members Present: Bob Anderson, Allen Rasmussen, Wade Pavleck, Mike Hanson, Brian McBride, Keysha Pearson (Alternate)

Members Absent: Harley Droba

Staff Present: Paul Nevanen, Kyra Hasbargen

Others Attending: Emily Gedde (The Journal), Mike Welcome, Pat Arnold, Kelly Bloom, Brad Krasaway, Gary Kaunonen (KCC-TV),

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Rasmussen.

- 01 Approve agenda – McBride requested to add Transfer of Property to the agenda for the conveyance of forfeited property before the Directors Report. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to accept the agenda with the addition of Transfer of Property. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Approve minutes from 6/19/17 – **Motion by Hanson, a second by Anderson to approve the 6/19/17 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 03 Public Comment – None.
- 04 Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer McBride explained due to the timing of the meeting and that not all bills being received yet, he presented the CWT financial reports for June and monthly bills for July that have been received so far in the amount of \$5,711.03 and JLR bill for \$5,010, noting bills for Midco, MN Power and Bremer Bank have not been received yet. McBride mentioned there is also a transfer to KEDA in the amount of \$10,000 and another for \$25,000. **Motion by McBride, a second by Pearson to approve the June CWT financial reports and bills for July with a total of \$25,000 transfer to KEDA. Motion carried unanimously.** McBride presented the KEDA financials for June and bills for July in the amount of \$26,973.45, noting bills for Midco, Littlefork Times, Bremer Bank and Koochiching County have not been received yet. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to approve the June KEDA financial reports and bills for July. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 05 RRCC Healthcare Update – Brad Krasaway – Krasaway handed out a PowerPoint presentation that was given at a Rural Health Conference recently and explained the survey results from the breakout of the presentation. Krasaway briefly highlighted the presentation and thanked McBride, Nevanen and Representative Ecklund for their lead, adding in October 2016 there were 65 open health care positions and in May they were cut in half, noting the success is remarkable. Krasaway stated here is currently a waitlist for the RN and LPN programs adding the success of Director Ettestad has been very clear. Krasaway continued with next steps. Short discussion on some of the challenges. The Board thanked Krasaway for his work and update.
- 06 Personnel Committee – Rasmussen stated the Personnel Committee, which consists of Rasmussen, McBride and Anderson met on Monday, July 10th to review Hasbargen and Nevanen, adding after the review and discussion, the recommendation is to provide a 2.5% wage increase for Hasbargen based on various responsibilities and the agencies she does work for. McBride added the Airport Commission reimburses for a portion of the wages. Rasmussen stated she has many responsibilities. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to accept the Personnel Committee’s proposal of 2.5% wage increase for Hasbargen effective July 1st, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.** Rasmussen stated the Personnel Committee’s recommendation is a 1/5% increase for Nevanen

effective July 1st, 2017. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to accept the Personnel Committee's proposal of 1.5% wage increase for Nevanen effective July 1st, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.**

- 07 Transfer of Property – Nevanen explained the history of the Business Park property, noting there is currently 8 acres and looking to acquire the additional 16 acres of tax forfeited surrounding property, adding the County has agreed to convey the 16 acres to KEDA at a cost of \$9,100 plus closing costs for a total of \$9,500 and asked the Board to move forward to create a plat map with Matt Gouin. Nevanen explained the past and recent development. McBride stated the County is very supportive and want the tax forfeited land to get back on the tax roll, adding it will need to go through the public process of fair market value. Kelly Bloom, Falls Motel owner, stated he is all for the business park addition of acres, but would like there to be a buffer. Short discussion on the buffer and types of businesses that will be allowed in the park to utilize those lots. Nevanen stated this will allow for the platting process to begin and will hold a public meeting for discussion as well as apply for wetland credits. Discussion on the potential concerns of surrounding business owners. Discussion on the platting process and plan. Pat Arnold stated he is interested in a part of the property that butts up to his campground property. Short discussion on roads to include in the plan. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to move forward with the purchase of the tax forfeited land from the County at a cost of \$9,500. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Anderson, a second by Pearson to authorized the Executive Director to begin the plotting process and develop a plan for the 16 acres in the Business Park. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 08 Director's Report – Nevanen thanked the board for their support of the office and staff. Nevanen reported on Granite Digital and their awaiting on a private placement memo later this week as part of their initial fund raising effort, adding Joe Mershon was in the Twin Cities this week meeting with member of the Hewlett Packard Enterprise team to continue discussion on the project. Nevanen stated there was one bid for the first phase of the cold box construction which was opened on June 23rd, adding the bid came in very close to the estimates and is a vendor that has worked with the current cold boxes in the past. McBride question construction timeline. Nevanen responded hope to start in August and completed at the end of October. Nevanen stated he attended a DEED & MnDOT informational session on Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure Program (TEDI) which is a program directed at communities for road and infrastructure projects in support of economic development, adding he will meet with County Engineer Joe Sutherland to see if any upcoming projects may be eligible for the programs. Nevanen also touched on a recent visit with Senator Klobuchar which Chairman Rasmussen attended, and an upcoming Summer Social that grew out of the University of Minnesota's 2016 Retail Trade Analysis of the area and a survey that was conducted of seasonal home owners and many whom felt disconnected to the community but were interested in getting involved, noting to date there are 57 attendees registered to attend the event at Thunderbird on July 13th at 6pm. Rasmussen gave a brief updated on his visit with Senator Klobuchar.
- 09 Other (City/County Updates) – Anderson reported on the annual 4th of July celebration which was great and had a good number of floats and vendors booths. McBride stated referenced the airport flight schedule and how the new schedule has worked for getting enplanements up. McBride also mentioned the County is working on budgets and gave a brief update on the Island View Sewer Project. Hanson stated Pioneer Days is this weekend in Birchdale, adding there was a great turnout for the 4th of July celebration and referenced the upcoming American Sturgeon Contest.
- 10 Public Comment Period – None.
- 11 The next board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th at 10:00 a.m. the Birchdale Community Building. **Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.**