

Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Monday, January 23rd, 2017
County Boardroom

Board Members Present: Brian McBride, Bob Anderson, Mike Hanson, Allen Rasmussen, Wade Pavleck, and Harley Droba

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Paul Nevanen, Kyra Hasbargen

Others Attending: Emily Gedde (The Journal), Crystal Clance

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Rasmussen.

- 01 Approve agenda – Nevanen explained a small change to #6, United Health Group – Joann Dornhecker, noting she initially agreed to attend the meeting but due to it being a public meeting she is not able to speak about the business, but invited all board members to visit her at anytime. Nevanen stated he will continue to reach out to businesses to give updates at future meetings. Rasmussen noted an incorrect date under #3 Approval of Minutes, noting the date should be listed as 12/19/16. **Motion by Anderson, a second by McBride to accept the agenda with changes to #3 and #6. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Election of 2017 Officers - Rasmussen explained the election of officers, noting election will be for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer. McBride nominated Rasmussen to continue as Chairman. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Pavleck to approve Rasmussen as the KEDA Board Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.** McBride nominated Hanson to continue as Vice Chairman. **Motion by Pavleck, a second by McBride to approve Hanson as KEDA Board Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.** Anderson nominated McBride to continue as Treasurer. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Pavleck to approve Commissioner McBride as KEDA Board Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 03 Approve minutes from 12/19/16 – **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Anderson to approve the 12/19/16 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 04 Public Comment –None
- 05 Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer McBride presented the CWT financial reports for December and monthly bills for January in the amount of \$36,915.93 and \$2,912.00 for JLR bills. McBride noted a transfer of \$15,000 from JLR account to CWT. **Motion by McBride, a second by Droba to approve the December CWT financial reports and bills for January in the amount of \$36,915.93 and \$2,912.00 for JLR and a \$15,000 transfer from the JLR account to the CWT account. Motion carried unanimously.** McBride presented the KEDA financials for December and bills for January in the amount of \$19,311.39. **Motion by McBride, a second by Anderson to approve the December KEDA financial reports and bills for January in the amount of \$19,311.39. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ~~06 United Health Group – Joann Dornhecker –~~

- 07 Personnel Committed – Rasmussen explained the personnel committee met on January 17th to conduct interviews for the Small Business Development Center, Business Consultant position, adding a background check and reference checking is in process.
- 08 Director’s Report – Nevanen read through his director’s report, referencing cold weather testing and as directed by the Board, presented to the City Council regarding support for a second cold box for JLR, adding he will be presenting to the County Board tomorrow. Nevanen noted JLR management was here over the weekend and they met to further develop the next 5-year lease agreement which would include the construction of another cold box, adding the same model as the last box is expected with a City, County and DEED partnership. Nevanen reported on a regional meeting he recently attended to discuss funding and financing economic development projects, noting workforce continues to be a challenge around the region. Nevanen stated he, Mayor Anderson, and Commissioner Pavleck recently met with Tony Jackson, International Falls Port Director for Customs and Border protection to discuss events and issues around the Port, adding with the upcoming expansion of Port of Prince Rupert this summer, there will be a significant increase in train and container volume through the Port. Nevanen reported on the cell tower near Rainy Lake Houseboats, noting Dale Olson and Tom Dougherty both have had positive communication with the cell tower owner and AT&T regarding activating the tower. Short discussion on the two Verizon towers that were approved and have not had any movement. Nevanen referenced an ARDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) project and explained it’s detail, along with the next Voyage Forward Marketing Partnership meeting, noting it will be on Thursday, January 26th at the International Falls City Council Chambers.
- 09 Other (City/County Updates) – Droba noted the City Council recently appointed Keysha Pearson as Center Ward Councilor, which is a 2-year appointment. Discussion on the Island View Sewer Project and the bid opening taking place tomorrow. Nevanen noted there will be a meet and greet for the new Voyageurs National Park Superintendent, Bob DeGross, this Friday at 4:00pm in Ranier. Nevanen noted a resolution for the County regarding developing a Pay & Benefits stipulation and explained further, noting questions were raised when Jenny Herman left and how benefits should be paid out. Short discussion on the benefits. **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Hanson to approve the Pay & Benefits Health Care Savings Plan Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 10 Public Comment Period – Clance notes she was glad to see The Journal in attendance at the meeting to inform the people of the community on things going on and is grateful for their work.
- 11 The next board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. **Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.**