

Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Wednesday, February 18, 2015
The Koochiching County Boardroom

Board Members Present: Bob Anderson, Soren Olesen, Rob Ecklund, Pete Kalar, Wade Pavleck, Allen Rasmussen

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Paul Nevanen, Kyra Briggs

Others Attending: Spencer Bickett (The Journal), Crystal Clance, Dan Odegaard (Rainy Lake Medical Center), Shawn Mason, Ken Anderson, Randy Thoms (CFOB - B93)

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

- 01 Approve agenda – **motion by Anderson, a second by Olesen to accept the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Approve minutes from 1/22/15 –**Motion by Pavleck, a second by Olesen to approve the 1/22/15 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 03 Public Comment – None.
- 04 Dan Odegaard, CEO, Rainy Lake Medical Center Update – Anderson introduced Mr. Odegaard, CEO of the Rainy Lake Medical Center (RLMC) who previously worked for the Bigfork Valley Hospital and has been with RLMC for about one year now, adding Mr. Odegaard brings a great deal of expertise. Introductions were made around the room. Odegaard thanked the board for inviting him to the meeting and explained his background and past experience. Odegaard explained his goals of providing more accessed and specialized care at RLMC to help people stay at home for care instead of traveling out of town. Odegaard mentioned a new surgeon, Heather Cook was recently hired at RLMC and gave the board a brief explanation of her background and the procedures she will complete here, adding her husband was hired also, as her 1st Assistant. Odegaard stated an Internal Medicine Doctor was also recently hired will help with complicated patient cases and be a consultant to other physicians. Several babies have been delivered recently, Odegaard stated, adding they are currently recruiting for an OBGYN also. Odegaard went into detail on the renovations being done to the old Good Samaritan Center building, which will become the new RLMC Clinic, adding there will be a special services wing and Sanford Optometry will have its own retail space. In March they will be adding a Tomography/Tomosynthesis machine which is a state of the art 3D cancer detection unit, so individuals can get a personal consultation here, adding the only other place that has one in MN is Duluth. A new MRI port with a trailer provided by CMBI will be here permanently and expected to be completed during the first week of April, Odegaard stated, adding there will be an open house in April for the public to view all renovations. Odegaard went on to detail his hopes and plans for the future of RLMC and commended its board and employees working hard to provide the best care possible for our area, noting 12 employees were hired within the last year and will be adding a few more. Rasmussen thanked Odegaard for being here to talk to the board and questioned the possibility of getting Dermatology here. Odegaard stated it is in the plan but is not at liberty to share details at this time. Anderson questioned dialysis being available here. Odegaard explained the board is determined to find a way to do dialysis here and looking at different vendors but the cost and volume is proving to be an issue, however they are trying their best to find a solution. Nevanen questioned Odegaard of his recruitment process and how he is getting the doctors to want to come here. Odegaard explained

bringing professionals into a small community is a very big challenge but they want to work for a viable company that will succeed and has modern technology, adding once RLMC grows it will help with recruiting in the future. Discussion on the renovations, employee count and working in conjunction with other surrounding hospitals.

- 05 Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Ecklund presented the financials for January and bills for February totaling \$19,152.44 and a transfer from KEDA to CWT in the amount of \$52,000 which was the amount of a wire transfer from a JLR payment. Anderson questioned the rent amount on the Budget vs. Actual report. Briggs explained due to a few things that were undetermined at the time the budget was created such as the addition of the Airport Commission, addition storage space fee and her position moving to full-time, a modification to the budget is needed to be done and will correct the budget for the next meeting. **Motion by Ecklund, a second by Olesen to approve the January KEDA bills and financial reports, and to modify the budget to reflect the increase in rent, Airport Commission addition and the Clerical Salary information. Motion carried unanimously.** Ecklund then presented the CWT financial reports for January and February bills totaling \$21,026.96 and JLR bills totaling \$12,400.00. Briggs mentioned the CWT Budget will also need to be updated to reflect the addition of the JLR Security and Facility Improvements requested by JLR. **Motion by Ecklund, a second by Kalar to approve the January CWT bills and financial reports and update the budget to reflect JLR addition of security and facility improvements. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 06 Election of 2015 Officers – Rasmussen explained the election of officers, noting election will be for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer. Pavleck nominated Rasmussen to continue as Chairman. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Olesen to approve Rasmussen as the KEDA Board Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.** Pavleck nominated Olesen to continue as Vice Chairman. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Ecklund to approve Olesen as KEDA Board Vice Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.** Pavleck nominated Ecklund to continue as Treasurer. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Olesen to approve Commissioner Ecklund as KEDA Board Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.** Anderson questioned if all terms are up to date. Rasmussen asked for clarification on term dates and if there is a 2 term limit for commissioners to be brought to next month's meeting.
- 07 KEDA/Koochco Service Agreement – Nevanen explained the 2 year agreement that KEDA has with Koochco, of which KEDA provides administrative services to Koochco for \$450 per month and is expiring at the end of the month. **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Ecklund to approve the Service Agreement of \$450 for administrative services from Koochco to KEDA. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 08 Director's Report – *Fisheries Property* – Nevanen reported as a follow-up to last month's meeting he has included additional information on the Fisheries Property including a plat map of the International Falls Business Park and explained the map's detail. Nevanen stated he spoke with the County Auditor who gave him information on the current tax liabilities on the property which is included in the packets, adding he has also spoken with Dennis Hummitzsch who coordinates the tax forfeit auctions at the County Forestry department. Discussion on the property and if KEDA is able to purchase the property if there are no private parties interested. **Motion by Anderson, a second by Ecklund to approve a letter on behalf of the KEDA, to the Land Commissioner and County Board for interest in Lot 2, Blk 1 of the property with having a private party interest be considered first and if there is none the KEDA having interest next. Motion carried unanimously.** *Voyage Forward/Newmark Follow-up* – Nevanen explained the three teams that make up the Voyage Forward Group have been meeting on regular basis in their various focus areas and have been generating lots of interest. As part of the project, consultants from Newmark Grubb Knight Frank were here to provide supporting information and data for their strategic assessment of the area, Nevanen stated, adding they have a follow-up site visit scheduled for March 9th-11th which

will focus around phone and one-on-one interviews with local businesses and organizations. Discussion on some issues the board sees such as high speed internet in rural parts of the county. *DEED Visit* – Nevanen reported on an opportunity he had to meet with the Executive Director of the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, Dana Mackenzie, who was in the area as a part of the MnUSA Rendezvous snowmobile event, adding they discussed the Border to Border initiative and broadband in the county with the importance of getting it into the rural areas. *RRCC Advisory Council* – Nevanen stated he was invited to participate in a kick-off meeting to create a Community Advisory Council, held by Carol Helland, the new RRCC Provost. The focus of the Councils is to assist the College identify needs and interests in the community, gaps in programs and service areas to enhance those areas, and form a communication link between the College and the community, Nevanen added, noting he invited Provost Helland to a future KEDA meeting to discuss college initiatives. *NHED President Search* – Nevanen stated the Northeast Higher Education District (NHED) is in the process of naming a new president for FY 2016 to replace Sue Collins, adding three candidates have been identified and a reception/open forum will be held locally in the RRCC Theater for each of the candidates on February 19th at 7:30am and February 24th at 7:30am and 3:45pm.

- 09 Other (City/County Updates) – Olesen questioned the possibility of having someone from Voyageurs National Park come and talk about their updates here and on Kabetogama and the new rules that are coming into effect. Anderson also recommended having someone from the Littlefork Medical Center to come and talk as a follow up and in addition to today’s report from Dan Odegaard. Short discussion on state funding and struggles in rural areas. Olesen suggested reaching out to Lake of the Woods County’s Economic Development Board to see about teaming up with some of these struggles and look at possibly partnering with NorthStar Electric. Anderson reported the Airport Commission has hired Kraus-Anderson out of Bemidji as a Construction Manager for the Airport Terminal project and have decided to hold off on going out for bids until December 2015 to see if additional funds can be acquired, and the CM is looking at where costs can be cut. Anderson also mentioned there will be construction conducted on Hwy 53 this summer starting at the Chocolate Moose which will include 34 miles of complete overlay and new culverts, center left turning lanes at Kabetogama, Ash River and Hwy 73 to Chisholm, and 2 passing lane extensions on Gheen Hill. Nevanen suggested rotating meets outside of the city starting in April for the summer months.
- 10 Public Comment Period – None.
- 11 The next board meeting was scheduled for March 18th at 10:00 a.m. at the City Council Chambers.
Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.