

Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Monday, February 25th, 2018
Koochiching County Boardroom

Board Members Present: Allen Rasmussen, Wade Pavleck, Mike Hanson, Walt Buller (Alternate), Joe Krause (Alternate), Kevin Adee (Alternate)

Members Absent: Bob Anderson, Brian McBride, Harley Droba and Representative Rob Ecklund

Staff Present: Paul Nevanen, Kyra Hasbargen

Others Attending: JoAnn Smith, Darci Sullivan (KCC-TV), Laurel Beager (The Journal) Ricky Roche

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Rasmussen.

- 01 Approve agenda with addition of Approval of Minutes from 2/4/19 for Payment of Claims – **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Adee to accept the agenda with the addition. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Election of Officers – **Pavleck nominated Allen Rasmussen as Chair. With no other nominations raised, Chairman Rasmussen called the question to elect Rasmussen as Chairman, with all members voting aye. Pavleck nominated Mike Hanson as Vice Chairman. With no other nominations raised, Rasmussen called the question to elect Hanson as Vice Chairman, with all members voting aye. Pavleck nominated Brian McBride as Treasurer. With no other nominations raised, Rasmussen called the question to elect McBride as Treasurer, with all members voting aye.**
- 03 Approve minutes from 12/20/18 – **Motion by Hanson, a second by Adee to approve the 12/20/2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 04 Approve minutes from 2/4/19 – **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Rasmussen to approve the 2/4/2019 meeting minutes for payment of January claims. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 05 Public Comment – None
- 06 Treasurer’s Report – Chairman Rasmussen presented the CWT financial reports in Treasurer McBride’s absence for January and monthly bills for February in the amount of \$17,712.51, JLR bills in the amount of \$4,632, a transfer from JLR to CWT in the amount of \$18,000 and a transfer from JLR to KEDA in the amount of \$15,000, while explaining the details. **Motion by Hanson, a second by Pavleck to approve the January CWT financial reports and bills for February in the amount of \$17,712.51, JLR bills in the amount of \$4,632, a transfer from JLR to CWT in the amount of \$18,000 and a transfer from JLR to KEDA in the amount of \$15,000. Motion carried unanimously.** Rasmussen presented the KEDA financials for January and bills for February in the amount of \$20,977.75. **Motion by Krause, a second by Pavleck to approve the January KEDA financial reports and bills for February in the amount of \$20,977.75. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 07 Business Park – Ricky Roche Update – Nevanen referenced a letter in the packets from Ricky Roche proposing to purchase additional land in the Business Park. Roche explained the lots he currently owns and referred to the lots he is proposing to purchase. Nevanen explained the lots in

the Business Park, the lots that have been recently acquired by the KEDA and developing a Plat for the additional acreage, adding an RFP was recently sent out and will go through the formal process. Discussion on the lots in the Business Park and which are useable. **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Hanson to authorize moving forward with Roche's proposal to purchase additional land in the Business Park and bring cost analysis and more details to next month's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

- 08 Director's Report – *Blandin Broadband Communities Initiative* – Nevanen stated the Blandin Broadband Community Project formally kicked off earlier this month with a three hour “visioning session”, adding the event attracted a diverse group of about 30 people to talk about the project and began discussion and identifying specific projects to fund as part of the program. Nevanen mentioned a number of projects were identified and the steering committee will conduct a follow-up meeting to select the initial projects for funding and referenced a couple of the proposed projects. *Koochiching Housing Collaborative* – Nevanen stated the collaborative met last month to review the findings of the county-wide housing study and look at next steps, adding the grant with the Minnesota Housing Partnership which will provide the second half fund to complete the payment of the study was closed out. *Cold Weather Testing* – Nevanen stated the testing season is winding down and planning on wrapping up at the end of March. *Miscellaneous* – Nevanen stated Island View Realty has the listing for the UHG building and will be working with them to help market the building. Nevanen referenced the Your Ticket Home initiative and looking at resurrecting it using updated ways to identify potential individuals or families interested in returning to the area. Nevanen referenced the 2019-2020 Work Plan in the packets, noting it is in draft form for a work plan for the coming year and explained the organizational chart. Hanson questioned initiative to look at additional footprint of Cold Weather Testing and questioned if there have been customers turned away due to capacity. Nevanen responded a few things have been looked at and there have been folks turned away in the past and is why it's good to take another look. Rasmussen recommended bringing some additional information to the next KEDA meeting. Discussion on local ties and bringing businesses here.
- 09 Other (City/County/Out-County Updated) –Pavleck referenced the development in Ranier as well as the waste water project, noting there may be some overruns to deal with. Rasmussen questioned completion of the project. Pavleck responded additional grinder sites were installed so they are negotiating the timeline and noted the Airport Phase II occupancy date has been moved to the end of May. Hanson reported on all the small communities, noting Green Forest in Littlefork is doing well, and Big Falls is looking forward to Spring so they can start on their Park addition, adding Northome snowmobile club building is going up.
- 10 Public Comment Period – None
- 11 The next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 28th at 10:00am the Ranier Community Building. **Meeting adjourned at 1:54p.m.**