

Meeting of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Thursday, May 23rd, 2019
Airport Conference Room

- Board Members Present:** Allen Rasmussen, Wade Pavleck, Mike Hanson, Brian McBride, Walt Buller (Alternate)
- Members Absent:** Bob Anderson, Harley Droba and Representative Rob Ecklund
- Staff Present:** Paul Nevanen, Kyra Hasbargen
- Others Attending:** JoAnn Smith, Darci Sullivan (KCC-TV), Ricky Roche, Carol Pavleck

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Rasmussen.

- 01 Approve agenda – **Motion by Pavleck, a second by McBride to accept the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 02 Approve minutes from 4/17/19 – **Motion by Hanson, a second by McBride to approve the 4/17/2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 03 Public Comment – None
- 04 Treasurer’s Report –Treasurer McBride referenced advice from ARDC on how financials are approved, noting the Treasurer is typically not qualified to make an approval on the financial reports, adding the Treasure should review and present them and then file for the auditors approval. McBride noted the bills would be approved and checks would be signed. Rasmussen explained further on the reason for the suggested change and recommendation for change to the KEDA financials. McBride explained the monthly bills for May in the amount of \$22,849.84. **Motion by McBride, a second by Hanson to approve the May KEDA bills in the amount of \$22,849.84. Motion carried unanimously.** McBride explained the monthly CWT bills for May in the amount of \$4,698.00 and a transfer from JLR to KEDA in the amount of \$20,000. Nevanen stated funds are running very lean at the moment due to the timing of payments from CWT customers. **Motion by McBride, a second by Pavleck to approve the May CWT bills in the amount of \$4,698.00 and a transfer from JLR to KEDA in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.**
- 05 Business Park Update – Nevanen gave a brief update and showed the lots on the map of the Business Park that are in the process of being plotted and referenced the lot behind Borderland Auto which has been requested by Ricky Roche for purchase and put up a 40’x40’ structure. Nevanen stated he approached Krantz appraisal for a land appraised value, noting it came back at a value of \$6,000. Nevanen requested approval for the Director and Chairman to work with Shermoen to draft up an agreement with Roche for the lot. **Motion by Pavleck, a second by Buller to authorize the Director and Chairman to draft a developer’s agreement at a land cost of \$6,000. Motion carried unanimously.** McBride questioned Roche on purchasing the Borderland Auto building. Roche replied he did purchase the building and explained further on his development plans. McBride stated it is good to see movement in the area. Nevanen stated in the midst of doing the platting process of the Business Park there was a slight legal description issue which is being addressed. McBride stated the County has agreed to do a Quiet Title Action for the Fisheries Building at their last meeting and hope to get that moving forward.
- 06 SBDC Update – JoAnn Smith gave a brief update on the last quarter, noting there were 2 new businesses she assisted to get up and running, about 820 students were involved in Junior

Achievement between International Falls and Littlefork schools and hopes to have close to 1000 next year with the addition of Indus school. Nevanen noted the Junior Achievement program requires a great deal of work and coordination. Smith reported on the Koochiching Resource Council and Child Care Town Hall that was recently held, adding she recently completed a grant request for \$1.3 million from the MN Department of Education in partnership with 4H for a before and after school program. Smith touched on the Community Baby Shower on May 4th and the Google Workshop that was conducted with about 24 attendees. Short discussion on child care loans.

- 07 Director's Report – *Koochiching Technology Initiative/Blandin Broadband (KTI)* – Nevanen stated members of the KTI Steering Committee met this week to review the potential Round One Blandin Broadband projects. Nevanen noted of the nine technology projects submitted, five were funded by the Committee for a total of \$22,427, adding they will be forwarded to Blandin for final approval. Nevanen stated the other projects, along with new submissions could be considered for the second round of funding that will be held in the Fall. *Opportunity Zones* – Nevanen stated he sat in on a webinar on how the Opportunity Zone program works, but it is complicated on how to get it all set up, adding he reached out to Clifton Larson Allen accountants to invite a resource person to speak here and also reached out to the local Chamber to hold the event. Nevanen stated the Journal also ran an article on the statewide Minnesota Opportunity Collaborative and included several comments from him. Nevanen stated he had an opportunity to visit with Rob Davenport, the publisher of the Journal and also met with Michael Cloclough, the Business Finance Director for the Northland Foundation to discuss their business loan programs. Nevanen referenced the Airport Ribbon Cutting today at 1pm and invited Board members back to attend, noting the office move has gone fairly smoothly and are settling into the new space with a few minor hiccups. Short discussion on broadband.
- 08 Other (City/County/Out-County Updated) – Hanson stated Birchdale was awarded \$4,900 for broadband and are awaiting more information from Blandin.
- 09 Public Comment Period – None
- 10 The next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 27th at 10:00am in the Airport Conference Room. **Meeting adjourned at 10:00a.m.**