

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Max Weiss at 9:52 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Max Weiss, Mr. Brian Michaels, Ms. Carol McDonough, and Mr. John Hadley. Mr. Taylor was excused.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Mr. Bill Hedberg, Mr. Dennis Bork, and Ms. Lisa Schuh (Teams).

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Revolving Loan Fund Policy:
The policy was reviewed. Mr. Bork suggested language to limit how many times a person could ask for funds, how much funding could be obtained per person, having a floating interest rate, and giving reduced real estate taxes instead of a loan. Mr. Hedberg reviewed the current interest rate language that follows the prime rate and varies on the type of loan. He also reviewed the need to have a loan committee and who should be on it. The EDC Committee would like the loan committee to only be able to recommend or not recommend approving a loan and allow either the EDC Committee or full County Board to make the final decision. It was decided to have the loan amount set at 20% of the needed amount of a maximum of \$10,000.00 and only one loan allowed per person. This will be brought back to a future meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Flyway Trail Update: Mr. Engfer explained the Phase 2 costs are higher than expected but the Flyway Trail Committee will cover those costs. He also explained washouts that have been happening on the first part of the trail and work he has done to correct the issue.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Update: If everyone requested funding the allotted amount would be overbudget. This is unlikely as there is a limited time to get the project planned and completed by the deadline. Mr. Hedberg has been working on the BEAD grant. This is a broadband planning grant.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Economic Development Meeting Held in Fountain City: Mr. Hedberg explained that Travel Wisconsin put on a

meeting with various businesses in an effort to find ways to expand tourism throughout Buffalo County. They will meet again on May 23, 2023, at the Monarch in Fountain City at 1:00 p.m. There needs to be more tourism outreach efforts in Buffalo County to showcase all there is to do and see. Mr. Hedberg has received quotes from two companies that can create a website and one does media outreach to showcase Buffalo County. He will send these quotes to the Committee to discuss at the next meeting.

Review/Discussion regarding the Committee Chair Report: None.

Review/Discussion regarding Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the next meeting date and time: The next meeting will be June 15 at 10:00 a.m. or immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Hadley made a motion to adjourn at 11:14 a.m., seconded by Ms. McDonough. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk