

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING MINUTES**

MSUE MEETING ROOM, CASS COUNTY BUILDING

Date January 23, 2019

Time: 8:30 am

Board Members present: Troy Clay X, Kevin Anderson __, Terry Ausra X, Roseann Marchetti X, Rick Russwurm X, Eugene Wagner X, Junior Oliver X, James Finan __, Les McClelland X, Harry Shaffer X.

Also present: Barkley Garrett, and Martha Oliver, Mark Van Dusen, Ron McAdam.

Eugene Wagner moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Rick Russwurm, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jackie Taylor of the Administrator's Office asked about remitting payment the monthly amount for SMEGA in light of the fact that SMEGA has merged with Four Flags Chamber of Commerce. Jackie suggested a new agreement be signed. Troy Clay will be meeting with Barkley Garrett in the next two weeks and he will find out what needs to be done. Jackie also asked for clarification about the procedure for EDC applications. In the past the applications were sent to the entire Board for review. Leslie McClelland explained that an outreach committee was formed to review applications. Harry Shaffer suggested moving forward with the interviews. After further discussion, it was agreed that applications need to be sent to the outreach committee which consists of Leslie McClelland and Roseann Marchetti. The members were asked to send any interview questions to Roseann and Leslie. The outreach committee will make arrangements to meet. Roseann reported that Edwardsburg was accepted for the SBEI project.

Eugene Wagner moved to approve the November 28, 2018, minutes as presented, seconded by Rick Russwurm and motion carried.

Eugene Wagner moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Junior Oliver and motion carried.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Barkley Garrett explained the merger between SMEGA and the Four Flags Chamber of Commerce. The merged organization is called The Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce. Barkley will remain in the office and one and a half staff members have moved from the Chamber office. They have a contract with the South Bend Chamber and Jeff Rea is the president and CEO. Barkley's function with the Cass EDC remains the same. Barkley reported that the IT Company which purchased the National Copper Building in Dowagiac is awaiting EPA approval, and without the approval they cannot go to closing. The Village of Marcellus is looking for some help with some unused buildings that they purchased. Junior Oliver reported that a new real estate firm opened in Dowagiac, Lonnie McIntosh Realty.

OLD BUSINESS:

501 © 6 is official.

501 © 3 is still in process.

Business Roundtable

We will stay on top of it and we hope to have two per year.

NEW BUSINESS: Eileen Toney's resignation letter was read. There are two vacancies on the EDC Board so the outreach committee will meet and interview the applicants.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 am.

We attest the Board of Directors of the Cass County EDC has approved these minutes as the official minutes of the meeting recorded herein.

Troy Clay, Chair

Roseann Marchetti, Secretary