

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING MINUTES**

MSUE MEETING ROOM, CASS COUNTY BUILDING

Date February 27, 2019

Time: 8:32 am

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

Also present: Barkley Garrett and Mark Van Duesen.

Kevin Anderson moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Harry Shaffer and motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Interim Administrator Jeff Carmen introduced himself and spoke briefly about his background.

Kevin Anderson moved to approve the January 23, 2019, minutes as presented, seconded by Les McClelland and motion carried.

Harry Shaffer moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Kevin Anderson and motion carried.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Barkley Garrett reported on the SMEGA and Four Flags Chamber of Commerce merger. There are two projects for Cassopolis that are being pursued; one is an expansion opportunity and all players are in the right place. Marcellus has bought two buildings in which they saw value. Now they are looking at ways to put the buildings to use and are seeking grant opportunities. The IT Company that is purchasing the National Copper building in Dowagiac still needs EPA approval which has been stalled because of the government shutdown. The question was asked if we, the EDC, could help and after discussion, it was agreed that Troy Clay and Barkley would put together a letter and send it to Representative Fred Upton asking for his help. Bertrand Township and Niles have been successful in getting three and one half miles of fiber through Midwest Energy. Barkley further talked about Idea Week and asked the members to participate. There are volunteer opportunities. Idea Week is April 8-13, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS

501 © 6 is official.

501 © 3 is still in process. There was discussion on both the 501 © 3 and 501 © 6.

Cass County EDC/Greater Niles Chamber MOU: Troy Clay explained that the existing agreement is lacking and there needs to be a clarification on the scope of

work to be performed. Barkley Garret has been used and abused and many times far exceeded the time that was required. Discussion followed. Kevin Anderson made a motion for the Chairman to seek additional funding from the County Board for the purpose of economic development services from the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce. After a second by Leslie McClelland, the motion carried. Kevin Anderson moved to approve payment for economic development services to Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce, which is the new name of what was known as the Southwestern Michigan Economic Growth Alliance (SMEGA) under our existing agreement of \$2,000.00 per month until the earlier of the next 90 days or until a new agreement is reached with the Greater Niles Area Chamber of Commerce. After a second by Harry Shaffer, the motion carried.

Recommendation of new members: Leslie McClelland reported that the outreach committee of Leslie McClelland and Roseann Marchetti interviewed Mark Van Duesen and Ron McAdam and recommend both be approved as members of the Cass County EDC Board. After discussion, Leslie moved that the EDC Board recommend/nominate Mark Van Duesen be approved as a member of the Cass County EDC by the Cass County Board of Commissioners. After a second by Harry Shaffer, motion carried. Leslie moved that the EDC Board recommend/nominate Ron McAdam be approved as a member of the Cass County EDC by the Cass County Board of Commissioners. After a second by Harry Shaffer, the motion carried.

Roseann Marchetti reported that the MSU/SBEI first session of Edwardsburg Vision Project met on February 25, 2019 and was very successful. Over 130 people attended and there was a very positive reaction to the project.

There being no further business before the Board, Harry Shaffer moved to adjourn, seconded by Leslie McClelland and motion carried. Chairperson Clay adjourned the meeting at 9:29 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