

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, September 4, 2025**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Sharon Casey, Josie Thomopolous, and Majorie Quammen present. Attending virtually was Rob Nudell. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director, and Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee.

Casey made a motion to approve the agenda. Bullard seconded. Those in favor include Bullard, Dorn, Nudell, Young, Casey, Thomopoulos and Quammen. MCU Young made a motion to approve the minutes. Bullard seconded. Those in favor include Bullard, Dorn, Nudell, Young, Casey, Thomopoulos and Quammen. MCU Bullard made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Nudell seconded. Those in favor include Bullard, Dorn, Nudell, Young, Casey, Thomopoulos and Quammen. MCU

Business Improvement Program The Commissioners discussed the business improvement program, mentioning the need to work out the paving of the alley with the plans that some of the businesses have for the grant they will be receiving. There is a construction meeting next week, it sounds like the timeline for the alley depends on concrete availability. It was suggested we review applications that have not been funded as we may have additional funds available. They plan to discuss this further next month, with Val sharing the new applications for review.

Aligning Roles for Main Street: Sharon emphasized the importance of a healthy Main Street as a priority for the City Council, as it contributes significantly to the city's tax revenue. She suggested that the Economic Development Authority (EDA), Planning Commission and the Council align their roles to avoid conflicts and ensure clear responsibilities, particularly in light of the recently revised long-range strategic plan. Val will propose to the council the idea of scheduling a session with all three entities to discuss these issues.

Stitch Property Development Discussion

The group discussed potential property development, focusing on the Stitch property and its future use. The City Council has voted to sign a purchase agreement for this property. Val explained that while the city's intent is to develop the Stitch property for residential use, there's no set timeline. Rob raised concerns about the lack of housing and its impact on school enrollment. The conversation also touched on the need for different types of housing, particularly single-level rental options, to address the current housing market challenges. It was noted that the city council discussed recent land acquisition efforts, including failed attempts to purchase the Morical and Harms properties. They explored the possibility of acquiring 38 acres from a local farmer but chose to purchase the Stich property instead. They discussed the potential for property swapping, but no suitable partners were identified yet.

Emerging Small MN Cities Housing Visioning Update: the meeting focused on planning and collaboration for community development projects, with discussions on housing, land use, and stakeholder engagement. The importance of involving diverse perspectives was emphasized, including those from outside the city, and suggested connecting with developers and experts for potential collaborations. The group has planned for upcoming meetings, including an open house in December and a charrette in April. The group discussed plans for an upcoming open house in December, focusing on attracting a diverse audience beyond current community members. We should emphasize the need to consider future housing needs, including smaller lots and affordable options, while also addressing concerns about Main Street businesses and supporting year-round residents. The conversation included ideas for a community event space which could serve multiple

purposes from weddings to co-working spaces and highlighted the importance of attracting young workers and addressing labor shortages.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 9th.

Adjourn at 8:02 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Valrie J. Martin".

Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer