

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, January 5, 2017**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on January 5, 2017. President Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Jeff Drake, Leigh Shebeck, Don Maslow and Milt Paulson present. Absent were Gene Kelm and Sara Boyum. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

Paulson made a motion to approve the agenda. Shebeck seconded. MCU

Maslow moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Paulson seconded. MCU

Martin gave an update on Tri-City Living. They met in November with some housing professionals from HRA. Nick Leonard, Otter Tail County EDA was also there to discuss a Rural Rebound Initiative. The Initiative is designed to improve the region's ability to hire, retain and advance workers in the area. A grant was received for the program and Erik Osberg was hired as the program coordinator.

The Commission discussed the childcare center. It appears that they are moving in a new direction and will probably focus only on childcare. They are thinking of selling the West Tool building and locating the business someplace else. It sounds like they are interested in building closer to the Highway 78 corridor. A few options were discussed and Martin will send the suggestions to Mike Henkenius.

Other Updates:

- Swedberg's has added more greenhouses – they continue to add and expand and appear to have a great family business.
- Williams Company has closed until spring.
- The upholstery business has moved out of the building they were in and have purchased a home by Christina Lake where they have moved their business to.
- The bakery has been sold to Denise Harms

The business incentives brochure that Martin created was discussed. The brochure included some incentives for new and expanding businesses. The Commissioners felt it would be a good idea and should be presented to the council. Martin will shoot for the February City Council meeting. It may be a consideration to add some residential incentives for new homes.

Maslow moved to elect the following officers for 2017:

President: Randy Dorn

Vice President: Leigh Shebeck

Secretary/Treasurer: Val Martin

Paulson seconded. MCU

Strategic planning was continued with Jeff Drake facilitating. We are at the end of the list of goals and he will provide a final copy of the strategic planning.

Would a fitness center be a good fit for Battle Lake to expand on what Scott Ellingson has right now? The Moser building would seem to make a good location with retail below and a fitness center above.

The Business Retention and Expansion program was discussed. Network Battle Lake members were interested and willing to do this in the spring of 2017 and the EDA commissioners agree. Martin will contact West Central Initiative and work on getting the program started.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7:00 a.m., one week later than the normal date.

Valerie J. Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer