

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, March 2, 2017**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Vice President Leigh Shebeck called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Jeff Drake, Leigh Shebeck, Don Maslow, Gene Kelm and Milt Paulson present. Absent were Sara Boyum and Randy Dorn. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

Paulson made a motion to approve the agenda. Drake seconded. MCU Paulson moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Maslow seconded. MCU Drake moved to approve the financials as presented. Maslow seconded. MCU

Martin gave an update on Tri-City Living meeting held February 15th in Perham. They attended the Perham EDA annual meeting. It was good information to see what other EDA's are doing. Following that meeting, they held their regular monthly meeting with Erik Osberg, Otter Tail County Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator speaking. They discussed marketing ideas and also set dates for their next meeting which will be held April 19th in Henning. There will also be a workshop with Erik Osberg on this date which will provide tools for maximizing social media. This will be held at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and Tri-City meeting at noon. They are also working on the annual meeting to be held in May at Thumper Pond with Ben Winchester speaking. This will be May 4th at 5:00 p.m.

The Commission discussed the childcare center and the changes the nonprofit is working on.

Other Updates:

- MnDOT public hearing for the right of way issues in the amenity zone will be held March 28th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Martin gave an update on Hatchery Row – there may be some potential grant funding available through an art organization. Martin plans to meet with some key players on throwing together some ideas.

Council minutes and agenda were reviewed.

A final copy of the strategic planning was distributed. The EDA will review quarterly.

Shebeck, Kelm, Drake and Martin reported on the new Business Retention and Expansion program. The initial meeting of the leadership teams was held this week. The group noted the positive energy in this group and the excitement to move forward. The leadership team will meet monthly to get the ball rolling and business interviews will be done starting mid-August.

Martin has scheduled a joint EDA/Council information session to be held Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. with Dan Malmstrom, Greg Wagner from West Central Initiative and Traci Ryan from Ryan Development Consulting presenting.

Dates to Remember:

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| March 9 th | Network Battle Lake 5 th Anniversary Event @ Shoreline |
| March 28 th | MnDOT/Hwy 78 Hearing @ 7:00 p.m. |
| April 19 th | Social Media Workshop with Erik Osberg – 10 to 12 at Henning City Hall |
| April 25 th | Economic Development Informational Session with Council, EDA, and Businesses
At 7:00 p.m. Battle Lake City Hall - Facilitated by Dan Malmstrom. Other speakers – Traci Ryan & Greg Wagner |
| May 4 th | Tri-City Annual Meeting with Ben Winchester speaking 5:00 at Thumper Pond |

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 a.m.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, April 6, 2017.

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