

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority & Network Battle Lake Joint Meeting
Thursday, May 3, 2018**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, May 3, 2018. President Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Don Maslow, Gene Kelm, Leigh Shebeck, Jeff Drake, and Steve Young present. Absent was Sara Boyum. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

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

Updates discussed:

- At Your Service Training, facilitated by Leigh Shebeck, will be held on May 22nd at the school and will be run through community education.
- Drake will ask Brett Feda if he still has plans to construct an information kiosk for his Eagle Scout project.
- Goals will be reviewed next month.
- Job Fair and Career Expo at the school went well.

The commissioners reviewed the two quotes for soil sampling for the tax forfeiture property. Dorn suggested checking with one more company that has done some work in the area. Shebeck made a motion to approve spending up to \$2,000 for soil sampling on this property. Drake seconded. MCU

Joint Network Battle Lake/Economic Development Authority Meeting

Gary & Karalyn Harrington and Reba Gilliland presented the background information for Network Battle Lake – how they were created, their mission and the projects that have been completed.

Val Martin presented information of the re-created Economic Development Authority, goals and projects completed.

After the presentation, questions and comments were:

- What about businesses closing up? It is important to try and do what we can before that happens. Someone noted that the Business Retention and Expansion survey had this specific questions with no red flags. It is important to relay information of businesses closing to the appropriate personnel when you hear this.
- There were a couple questions on the EDA's authority and capital project fund.
- EDA and NBL are very similar and we are working on many of the same goals.
- We need to work with area townships and other communities with some of this being done now.
- We need to utilize West Central Initiative to the maximum.
- We need to continue a partnership with each other and develop continued communication.
- The majority of what NBL does is provide people power – they've done a lot with very little funding.
- How can we collaborate?
 - Childcare – could NBL and EDA collaborate to meet with townships to discuss childcare?
 - Business owners – Working together on developing a one-on-one relationship with business owners.
 - Jeff Wiersma from Glendalough – stated that a group advertising brochure would be great to give out at the park. Someone suggested the resort flyer would work in the interim.
 - New initiatives?
 - Grab-a-Bite needs some work
 - Welcome Wagon of some sort? List of services/businesses, etc.

The group agreed that communication was important between the two groups and if there are specific projects to work on together, someone can approach each entity. At this point, the suggestions include:

- Sharing EDA and Council minutes at NBL
- Sharing NBL minutes with council and EDA
- No future meetings were planned unless a project comes up

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