

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, July 12, 2018. President Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Don Maslow, Gene Kelm, Leigh Shebeck, Sara Boyum and Steve Young present. Absent was Jeff Drake. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

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

The Open Door Youth Center was discussed. Lee Rogness from Bethel Church visited with Martin yesterday and he wondered if the EDA had suggestions for use of the property. They feel the building is not repairable and would probably need to be torn down. The Commissioners came up with some suggestions included a parking lot, if Bethel Church would purchase the LACC; an apartment complex, a community center built for the needs of the community, etc. Martin will call Rogness to let him know about the discussion.

Otter Tail County is going to do a broadband survey to try and pinpoint specific issues with broadband speed, mostly in the residential areas. The County conducted a study, set up a committee and have decided to do this as the next step in the process of trying to increase the amount of broadband available to residents in Otter Tail County. As this was chosen as a priority for Battle Lake's BR&E program, Martin had asked for a cost to do an add-on survey for just Battle Lake residents. The cost for the survey in Battle Lake is \$3,000. There may be some County and/or grant funds available to help pay for this but Martin did not know how much would be covered. The EDA Commissioners wondered how this survey would help. Would the City be in line for grant funding or at least put in a better position for funding? Would it help attract one of the businesses that provide service to Battle Lake to improve their service and install fiber in needed areas? A decision was tabled for further information.

Updates:

- Hatchery Row – Dorn and Martin are still working with the current property owners on a price. Shebeck made a motion to raise the cap for purchase of the properties to \$110,000. Young seconded. MCU
- Soil sampling information was received back on the tax forfeiture property. There is no outright evidence of contamination that would require clean-up measures.
- Shebeck made a motion to purchase the tax forfeiture property with Parcel ID 63-000-99-0442-000 at amount not to exceed \$6,000. Dorn seconded. MCU
- Martin and Kelm gave an update of Tri-City Living. The date set for their annual meeting is September 25th and it will be held at the Shoreline Restaurant in Battle Lake. The program will be the Future of Retail presented by Jill Amundson from West Central Initiative.
- The Battle Lake brochure highlighting parking and amenities was reviewed. Several changes were discussed. Martin will notify the designer of the suggested changes.
- The information kiosk was discussed – Drake is still working with the Ag teacher at school to see if they can build it in shop class.

Goals were tabled until the next meeting which was changed to July 31st at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn 8:03 a.m.

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