

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Thursday, November 7, 2019**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, November 7, 2019. Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Steve Young, Darren Kern, Don Maslow and Josie Schmidt present. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

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

Kelm made a motion to approve the minutes. Shebeck seconded. MCU

Shebeck made a motion to approve the financials. Dorn seconded. MCU

**Updates:**

**Hatchery Row:**

- Properties have pretty much been cleaned out of personal items. There are just a couple things in the last building that have been addressed but Martin will make another phone call.
- An e-mail from the developers was reviewed.
  - *Good morning Rob and Ted, I'm just checking to see how things are going with the Hatchery Row project and how we can further assist you. We have an EDA meeting on Thursday morning and would love to give them an update. The EDA officially owns the property and everything has been cleaned out and ready for demo in the spring. Val Martin Hi Val, Good to see everything is moving forward on the city's end. As we discussed previously, Ted and I had a lot on our plate would not be able to start working on Hatchery Row until sometime in November, so now we should be able to start our process in the next week or so. We have reached out to Viewpoint to commission a study on the apartment demand for Battle lake area. Meanwhile, our meeting with Greg Smedsrud went very well. He has committed to lease some space in the retail side of the project. Greg is very positive about this project and will work with us very closely. We are excited and committed to this project and believe it will work for us to move forward in the spring. Regards, Robert Thompson | President*
- Site investigation was discussed. There were three quotes received for the limited site review. PetroFund requires a competitive process. Martin had them review the quotes and received a letter stating that they comply with the bidding requirements. One bid was dramatically lower than the other two and commissioners were concerned that they may not be providing the same service or is something missing. After a lengthy discussion, commissioners decided to table the decision until the November 12<sup>th</sup> Council/EDA joint meeting and asked Martin to get more information about the low bidder – timeline, references, and find out whatever she can.

**Experience Thursdays in Battle Lake and BL Block Parties**

- A survey was sent to businesses and the commissioners reviewed the results. It seems that the majority of those answering the survey felt it went well and wanted to continue with another year. Martin and Shebeck will work on setting up a meeting with the business owners to discuss this and other areas of promotion.

**Connecting with Business Owners:**

- Some of the Commissioners returned surveys they had completed with the businesses and a few more need to be completed. Martin will compile results after all of them have been returned.

**Connecting with Townships:**

- Shebeck has talked with representatives from Clitherall and Everts Townships. They don't feel a need to have anyone come to one of their meetings at this time. Shebeck will contact them again in a few months.

**Housing – How to move forward:**

- It was decided at a past meeting that an investment group for Battle Lake would be a great way to get some housing built. Do we try and invite people that we think may have some interest in being on an

investment group? Do we try and work with contractors? Maybe we should try and work with some up and coming contractors in the field? After discussion, the commissioners decided to invite some of the newer contractors to a meeting to discuss spec homes. Dorn will schedule a meeting with some local, newer contractors and send an invite to all commissioners. Kern mentioned that there is an apprenticeship program available through the state for high schools and it might be a good fit for Battle Lake, contingent on the school board's approval. Kern will contact his colleague, Bob Dockendorf, from Big Lake that has experience with the program. It was decided that this would be a great program for the annual meeting. Kern will contact Mr. Dockendorf to see if he available to present the information that day. The commissioners decided to try a lunch meeting this year. It will be scheduled for February 6, 2020 at noon and we will have it at the Shoreline.

CDA minutes were reviewed. Martin reported that a Housing Summit is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Applications for the Blandin Leadership Program are now ready on-line and are due January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Tri-City Living minutes were reviewed. An annual meeting is scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup> focusing on childcare in the Tri-City area.

Martin, Kelm and Young reported that the WCI Annual Meeting last night went well providing ample networking opportunities, an awesome speaker and some great information.

Kelm reported that Amy Stearns from Holmes Theater in Detroit Lakes is considering some travelling concerts as the theater will be down for repairs for awhile next year. More information to come.

Adjourn at 7:55 a.m. Next meeting is Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. with an EDA/Council joint meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

---

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