

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Thursday, May 7, 2020**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 2020 with some members participating via video conference pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021 due to a health pandemic. Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:20 a.m. with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Darren Kern, Steve Young, Josie Schmidt, and Don Maslow present. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer, Reba Gilliland and Bill Taylor from the Battle Lake Community Fund.

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

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

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

**Updates:**

**COVID-19:**

- **Emergency Fund:** Martin has been doing the legwork on the project. The best way to move on this project is to work with the Battle Lake Community Fund through West Central Initiative. The Community Fund has approved the program and will contact WCI to get a separate fund set up to receive donations. Martin said that once funds start getting disbursed, they would need to be run through the City and a check will be written to the person getting the grant/loan. Martin also noted that she contacted auditors and they do not have an issue with it as it is just being used as a pass-through. Martin also suggested that the next steps are to set up a committee comprised of EDA and Community Fund members. This committee would work to develop an application and list of criteria and suggest on who might be involved in approving applications. Maslow, Kelm and Shebeck stated concerns about the City/EDA being involved. They felt it may look like tax-payer money is being used for this project and would not look good. Martin stated that she disagreed, and this was an opportunity to show the community that the EDA is being proactive in doing what can be done to help residents and businesses out. It is in line with what an EDA might normally do. Some of the other EDA members agreed with Martin. Dorn, Kern and Young volunteered to serve on the committee. Gilliland said they will let us know who will be involved from the Community Fund.

**Hatchery Row:**

- Dorn and Martin reported that they met with the developers and Northland Environmental to discuss the clean-up plan. It was very much in line with what we anticipated, and the developers were comfortable with the conversation and will continue to move forward. Brandyn Ehlis from Northland will prepare a one-page, simplified document for Martin to share with the Council.
- Martin asked the EDA how they felt about a former owner's request to get some wood out of his old building. Due to liability issues, no one will be allowed to take materials out of the property.

**2020 Graduating Seniors:**

- Cards and key rings will be distributed to graduates at graduation from the EDA. Martin asked if there was something else, we should do for this specific class? After

discussion, the EDA agreed to order a congratulations banner that will be put up in the community and probably moved to different locations until graduation.

- Kern said that the graduation ceremony is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> on the football field with students being spread 6-feet apart. Parents will be allowed to watch from their vehicles. They will follow the graduation with a parade of graduates throughout the community. Martin will discuss the MnDOT permit needed with Chief Quaintance. Kern also said that yard signs have been ordered for each graduate and those will be delivered on Monday by both Kern and Principal Severson.

**Housing – How to move forward:**

- A prospective property owner has contacted us regarding a lot in Hidden Meadows and has been connected with Jake Trosdahl to look over options that have been put together because of the EDA's work on housing.

Adjourn at 8:12 a.m.

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