

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Thursday, November 5, 2020**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday November 5, 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 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Darren Kern, Steve Young, Leigh Shebeck, Gene Kelm Josie Schmidt, and Don Maslow present. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer. Other visitors were in attendance.

Shebeck made a motion to approve the agenda. Maslow seconded. With a roll call vote, those in favor included Dorn, Kern, Schmidt, Kelm, Young, Maslow and Shebeck with no member voting no. MCU

Young made a motion to approve the minutes. Shebeck seconded. With a roll call vote, those in favor included Dorn, Kern, Schmidt, Kelm, Young, Maslow and Shebeck with no member voting no. MC

Dorn made a motion to approve the financials. Kern seconded. With a roll call vote, those in favor included Dorn, Kern, Schmidt, Kelm, Young, Maslow and Shebeck with no member voting no. MCU

**Visitors:**

Barbara Dacy from Otter Tail County HRA along with Alex Johnson and Jill Amundson from West Central Initiative joined the meeting to discussion options for a Housing Study and survey for Battle Lake.

- West Central Initiative has grant funding from Otter Tail County to offer the technical assistance to do the study.
- Ryan Pesch from U of M Extension can do the survey and provide the results.
- Alex Johnson from WCI will provide the data for the study and can use this data to predict the future needs of the next several years.
- They will work with the local realtors and bankers on sales data.
- There was a discussion on what the survey questions will look like. EDA commissioners would like to see the questions prior to the survey going out. We also would like to get survey data from sources outside of Battle Lake – possibly through social media or other sources. Maybe the survey could have a couple questions that would assist Good Sam with a future expansion?
- The goals of the housing study and survey will be to justify the demand for the housing needs of Battle Lake. This will help with the MN Housing grant application and can assist future development.

Kern made a motion to approve moving forward with the project at a cost of \$3,250 for U of M to do the survey, contingent on EDA Commissioners approving the survey prior to it getting sent out. There will be no cost for WCI technical assistance. Young seconded. With a roll call vote, those in favor included Dorn, Kern, Schmidt, Kelm, Young, Maslow and Shebeck with no member voting no. MCU

**Hatchery Row:**

A couple meetings with the developers have been held to discuss clean up of the site and a development/TIF agreement. A preliminary layout was shared by the developers. The developers will be attending the City Council meeting next week to move along with some of the details.

### **EDA Lot**

A prospective business owner is interested in purchasing the EDA lot east of Everts Lumber. EDA Commissioners are interested in selling but would like him to make an offer on the lot. Martin will contact the City Engineer to discuss buildable area on the lot as there is a natural storm waterway going through the property. Commissioners would like firm information on costs that have been incurred for the lot purchase and soil samples.

### **Otter Tail County CDA**

A second round of CARES act money will be distributed. Martin will contact business owners to let them know and will make a special effort to contact owners that have not yet applied.

### **Other Updates**

Kern reported that school has been a struggle with COVID, but everyone is doing their best. It sounds like the Governor may have some type of announcement coming this week.

Next meeting is December 3, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn at 8:05 a.m.

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