

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, March 2, 2023**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Sean Belmont, and Steve Young present. Absent were Josie Thomopolous and Marjorie Quammen. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Reba Gilliland, Art Advisory Committee Representative. The visiting speaker was Melissa Hoffman from Good Sam.

Nudell made a motion to approve the agenda with additions. Bullard seconded. MCU

Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Belmont seconded. MCU

Nudell made a motion to approve the financials. Bullard seconded. MCU

Visitors:

- Melissa Hoffman, Good Samaritan Center Administrator, was in attendance to introduce herself and discuss what is going on at their facilities.
 - Melissa recently started her position at Good Sam after Casey Ward left for another position in the organization.
 - She was previously employed at a nursing home in Wadena.
 - The nursing home recently had its annual survey showing no deficiencies.
 - Keeping full-time staff is a huge challenge. They are working on setting wages at a higher rate to encourage new employees.
 - Capacity is 55 and they are at 51 – staffing is a factor in setting the number of residents they have. She feels getting to their capacity is a high priority but needs to have the staff to make this work.
 - They are working on a \$50,000 deficit budget. It will be important to have financial and staffing stability prior to any future expansion.
 - They have a good number of volunteers and anyone interested in volunteering can contact Tammy Carlson.
 - Nudell mentioned the school is working on a partnership with Good Sam on a CAN program for high school students.
 - Good Sam's Advisory Board will continue meeting at some point. Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn and Reba Gilliland are all part of that Board.

Hatchery Row

- General updates were discussed. The LACC has committed to leasing space in Hatchery Row. No members were in attendance to discuss this further.

High School Representative/School Update

- No students were available

West Battle Lake Shore Association - Belmont is involved with this organization and they have several projects in the works:

- They are interested in working with the City on a few projects in the future.
 - They have been discussing the idea of a boat wash station at one of the accesses. They are currently partnering with Otter Tail County on this. Martin mentioned that this was something the County had considered a few years ago for Lions Park.
 - They've also discussed the idea of some type of concrete pier that could also be used as a walking pier at Lions Park. The pier may help with the sand movement and the issues at the boat launch. Martin suggested they work with DNR on a design and permission for the pier.

Business Priorities – Action Items

- Survey results were distributed. There were about 24 businesses/organizations responding. EDA Commissioners will discuss the results at the next meeting. Martin will prepare some possible action items.

Randy Dorn informed the Commissioners that he has a commitment as part of the Independent Bankers Association that will take up more of his time and he may miss some meetings because of this commitment. There was a discussion on whether he should step down as president or continue with the Commissioners knowing that he might miss some meetings in the next year. Martin said that she would like to see him remain as president as there are a number of opportunities and meetings that happen outside of the EDA meetings and it is a huge benefit to have him continue in the role. Commissioners agreed with Martin, Young is currently the Vice President and can run meetings in his absence. Scott Duberowski, Bank Vice President can attend EDA meetings in Dorn's absence to have someone present from the bank.

Other Updates:

- School updates:
 - 54 heat new heat pumps are being installed.
 - The career fair is on April 20th – they are continuing to look for businesses that would like to participate. They are also looking for more volunteers to help conduct mock interviews with the students.
 - The School Board has some working sessions coming up to discuss the outcome of the committee work with Site Logic on a future plan for their facilities.

•
Upcoming meetings:

- Annual meeting on February 2nd at noon.

Adjourn at 8:23 a.m.

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