

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, June 1, 2023**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Sean Belmont, Josie Thomopolous, and Steve Young present. Absent was Marjorie Quammen. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Reba Gilliland, Art Advisory Committee Representative, and Jayd Sharpe and Katrina Ball from the LACC Board.

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

Nudell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Thomopolous seconded. MCU

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

Visitor – Ryan Severson – Battle Lake School Principal - Severson was in attendance to discuss the Career and Technical Education program through MState.

- Battle Lake School is a pilot school for this program.
- They started pursuing programs for those 30% of students that go right into the workforce.
- Programs available include introduction to transportation, introduction to construction and commercial drivers license program. Classes are taught by the school's instructors but if they decide to go to MState, they will receive credit for the work they have done.
- This program allows the students to work on-site during the last hour of the school day. A work exploration course is required for work release and will now be a required course for all 9th graders.
- Other programs may be explored in the future, such as healthcare. They currently do not have an instructor for this.
- Commissioners agreed and thanked Severson for coming and agreed that the program was a great addition to the school curriculum.

Additional School Updates:

- Construction on the roof and installation of new heat pumps are happening.
- Graduation was last week with 28 students graduating. 100% graduation rate this year.
- A school bus driving class is coming up through community education.
- There will be a Board retreat with Site Logic next Monday to discuss facility needs. The Board may formally decide to go for a bond referendum this fall for improvements to the facility.

Hatchery Row

- *Email from Rob Thompson: The project is going well. We still anticipate completion in December. Occupancy starting the first quarter. We are finalizing leases on the committed commercial space with approx. 65% full with several interested parties still in the mix for the balance of the space. We will start advertising and taking deposits on the residential units in June. Our property manager believes we have enough interest to be full upon completion. We still have uncommitted units available.*
- LACC Update: Katrina Ball and Jayde Sharpe were in attendance:
 - They are finalizing fundraising materials for events.
 - The first Farmers Market (they now manage this) was held last weekend with 14 vendors.
 - On June 13th, the bank is having a golf event at Balmoral with funding going to the LACC, Henning school library, and the Ottertail business group.
 - LACC would love to house some of the community education events in the future.

Old Youth Center

- Martin reported that the Otter Tail County CDA will be closing on the property in June with plans to demolish the building and will look for developers and possibly help with a financial package. There may be some grant funding to help with the project through MN Housing.

Business Priorities – Action Items

- Meeting held May 17, 2023 with business owners and LACC. Minutes were distributed.

Hidden Meadows Single-family Housing:

- The first two houses are sold. The third house will be constructed this year and be completed this fall.

Other Updates:

- Martin reported the OTC CDA will be purchasing the old youth center with the intent of tearing it down and helping attract a developer. Plans could result in a 12-unit apartment building. Bullard stated that he appreciated the fact that Martin was a board member of the CDA. It has been a help to the Battle Lake community to have this level of communication.

Upcoming meetings:

- Car Wash – Opening Mid-June
 - Chelsea Pacifica – Opening June 1
 - Neverbetter – Opening end of June?
 - Lakes Lockerroom – Opened in May
 - Prairie Peak Kennel - Grand Opening June 24th
 - The Glendalough Trail Center and Trail Expansion were approved with the bonding bill.
 - Art Alley has several improvements with an open house on July 17th from 2 to 4.
 - The clean-up was held in May – thanks to the staff and students at the school, along with all the volunteers.
- No meeting will be held in July. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 3rd at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn at 8:07 a.m.

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