

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, August 3, 2023**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Sean Belmont, Josie Thomopolous, and Steve Young present. Absent were Marjorie Quammen, Rob Nudell, and Randy Dorn. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Reba Gilliland, Art Advisory Committee Representative, and Scott Duberowski, from First National Bank.

Visitor – Amy Baldwin, Otter Tail County Community Development Agency (CDA) – Update on the former Youth Center Building owned by Bethel Church.

- The CDA will be closing soon on the property – all things are in order to get this done.
- Ness Backhoe has been awarded the contract for the demolition.
- It is located in the Hatchery Row TIF District. Some preliminary TIF financials were put together with the help of Traci Ryan, financial advisor.
- The CDA will ready the property and will start working looking for a developer. The vision is for a workforce apartment complex – possibly 8 to 12 units, dependent on parking, stormwater management, and/or additional requirements from the City.
- Once the CDA finds a developer, they will apply for the workforce housing state grant. This program was recently funded at \$40 million, up from \$4 million in other years. There is a needed match but this can be for the TIF.

Amy also updated the Commissioners on the Youth workforce project. The Battle Lake school has been a good partner with this project. The CDA will be doing a parent handbook that will be mailed to parents in the school districts of Otter Tail County.

Mayor Bullard complimented Amy on the great partnership with the City of Battle Lake. He appreciates all the assistance we have received.

Bullard made a motion to approve the agenda. Thomopolous seconded. MCU

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

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

Hatchery Row

- Construction is coming along with rafters now going up.
- Contaminated soil to be removed and hauled away from the City farm in the next week or so.

Lakes Area Community Center

- Kudos to this group for running some awesome events this summer, especially Wenonga Days. Things seemed to be very well organized and well attended.

School Updates

- Rob Nudell was not in attendance to update school activities. Martin did report that there will be a building bond referendum election on November 7th. She was hired as a school employee to run the election as the staff at the school has limited availability. This is outside of her regular City duties.

Business Priorities – Action Items

- A September meeting will be scheduled soon.

Hidden Meadows Single-family Housing:

- All three houses have now sold. This was a very successful project and it was exciting to see the last house sold prior to construction even starting!

Other Updates:

- Sean reported that the West Battle Lake Lake Shore Association held their annual meeting and it was well attended.

The next EDA meeting will be on September 7, 2023, at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn at 7:45 a.m.

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