

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, November 9, 2023**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, and Marjorie Quammen present. Absent was Sean Belmont and Josie Thomopoulos. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Reba Gilliland, Art Advisory Committee Representative.

Nudell made a motion to approve the agenda. Bullard seconded. MCU
Young made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Quammen seconded. MCU
Nudell made a motion to approve the financials. Bullard seconded. MCU Martin noted that reimbursement was received from MN DEED for the removal of the contaminated soil.

Hatchery Row

- General updates:
 - The contractor is anticipating that the project will be completed by the end of January.
 - There is still some commercial space left – they may decide to convert a portion of what's left to apartments. Some of the commercial space will be for the following: Communicating for America, a fitness center, Edward Jones, a salon, and a coffee shop with a bakery. They continue to get phone calls and interest in the remaining space and feel confident it will be filled by spring.
 - They are starting to write leases for the apartments with several spoken for already.

School Updates

- Rob Nudell reported on the school. One student competed in the state tournament for Cross Country and the football team is headed for the first round of state playoffs.
- Nudell thanked the EDA Commissioners for any work they did to get the word out about the school bond election. The bond referendum passed 720 to 567. They plan to sell bonds in January and estimate a 5% bond rate with a proposed start date in the summer of 2025 for construction. Nudell thanked Martin and the election team for doing a good job getting everything done.

Business Priorities

- Commissioners reviewed a list of questions for the business survey. The survey will be done through phone calls and personal visits this year as much as possible. Martin will make a few changes to the questionnaire and bring it back to next month's meeting along with a list of businesses so Commissioners can choose which ones to interview in person.

Other Updates:

- Bullard reported that the utilization at the Food Shelf has increased dramatically. The Food Shelf Board is looking for ideas on how to increase donations. The Commissioners suggested they run a campaign on social media next week as it is Give to the Max day November 16th. Information in the paper would also be helpful. Everyone was willing to help get the word out. Bullard will bring the suggestions back to the Food Shelf Board.
- The Otter Tail County CDA Housing Summit is November 16th.
- Next meeting – December 7th at 7:00 a.m. Martin will contact Kent Mattson, CEO of Lake Region Healthcare to see if he will come to the meeting to discuss opportunities to partner for promotion of the community.

Adjourn at 8:03 a.m.

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