

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, January 4, 2024**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, January 4, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Josie Thomopoulos, Steve Young, and Sean Belmont. present. Absent was Majorie Quammen. Also, present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer, Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee, Mike Burley, area resident, and Kent Mattson and Katie Johnson from Lake Region Healthcare.

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

Nudell made a motion to approve Randy Dorn as President. Bullard seconded. MCU

Mike Burley introduced himself. He lives on Pickerel Lake and has some interest in getting involved in the community. Dorn invited him to attend the EDA meeting to see what we have going on.

Visitors:

CEO, Kent Mattson and VP of Marketing and Communication, Katie Johnson from Lake Region Healthcare were in attendance to give an update on the mission, vision, values, strategic plan, and commitment to the community of Battle Lake. Some interesting points included:

- The entity is a nonprofit with 2 hospitals, 10 clinics, 1 cancer and research center, 1 senior living, 1100 employees, 120 physicians/advanced practice providers; an annual operating revenue of \$170 million with headquarters in Fergus Falls. Lake Region is community-owned/community governed.
- Clinics are available in Ashby, Barnesville, Battle Lake, Evansville, Herman, and Hoffman.
- It is run by a Board of Trustees from throughout the service area.
- The Foundation helps support new programs and equipment through fundraising and philanthropy.
- They provided an impressive list of current services.
- They partner with other hospitals/clinics such as Mayo and Sanford and share the same records system.
- 77 of their employees have a Battle Lake zip code which provides a direct benefit to the local economy.
- They are working to add additional professionals to their team at all times.
- There have five providers just in the Battle Lake clinic which supplies services Monday through Friday.
- They are willing to work with the EDA/community in the future. Being supportive of the community is very important to them.

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

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

Nudell amended his previous motion for election of the president to include the full slate of officers: Randy Dorn, President, Steve Young, Vice President and Val Martin, Secretary/Treasurer. Bullard, who seconded the previous motion agreed. MCU

Hatchery Row Updates:

Work is going well. They are hoping to get the fitness center open by the first part of March, followed by Edward Jones and Communicating for America. They are still working on plans for the other commercial spaces. Apartments should be ready in early spring.

School Updates:

The design team is working with architects on the plan

Groundbreaking planned for early 2025

They are working with Ehlers on the bond sales and hoping for an interest rate of around 4%

EDA Annual Meeting

- February 1st at the School Media Center
- Catered by Neverbetter
 - Lunch starting at 11:45, Program from noon to 1:30 p.m.

- Agenda:
 - Year in Review – Randy Dorn
 - Battle Lake School – What's Happening
 - Keynote Speaker – Tim Eggebraaten

Business questionnaire to be mailed out next week.

Approval of goals and priorities was postponed until the March meeting.

Adjourn at 8:20 a.m.

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