

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 1, 2024**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority held its Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at Noon with Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Marjorie Quammen, and Sean Belmont present. Absent commissioners were Rich Bullard and Josie Thomopoulos. Also, present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer, and approximately 65 additional members of the public. The lunch meeting was held in the Media Center of the School. Lunch was catered by Neverbetter.

Randy Dorn asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Senator Jordan Rasmusson spoke about the great things that have happened over the last few years in Battle Lake. He has been a strong supporter in the legislature of several of the projects that have been completed such as the Hatchery Row Redevelopment and Olaf Avenue and Memory Lane reconstruction. He says that Battle Lake is unique because of the progress that continues to be noticed across the state and is used as a standard in other communities. He offered his assistance and said people were free to contact him with their concerns.

Randy Dorn thanked Val Martin for her great work in Economic Development. He also thanked Mayor Bullard for his role as Mayor and his positive leadership. Dorn continued to talk about the many things that happened in 2023:

- Welcome to the new businesses such as Neverbetter, Chelsea Pacifica, the carwash, and others!
- Breakfast and brainstorming have become a great opportunity for networking between businesses, Network Battle Lake, the EDA, LACC, the Art of the Lakes, and others who are interested in participating. These meetings will continue every quarter and anyone is welcome to attend.
- Dorn reminded the businesses and organizations to fill out the EDA survey. It helps the organization with goals and priorities. Please take a few minutes to do this by February 9th.
- Battle Lake was again chosen as Leighton Broadcasting's "Best Hometown" for the second year in a row. Let's keep up the streak!
- We are excited about several new and existing businesses moving into the Hatchery in a very short time – Total Body Fitness, Edward Jones, Blondie's Salon, a bakery/coffee shop, and Communicating for America.

Rob Nudell and Ryan Severson gave an update on the school:

- Thanks to all who voted "yes" in the election. The bonds were projected at a 5% interest rate and are looking more likely to be around 4%. Construction should start April 2025. They spoke on the test scores in comparison to other schools in the area. Battle Lake is either at the top or close to it. They spoke about several programs for the students and the upcoming school college and career fair on April 4th.

Tim Eggebraaten, retired Detroit Lakes Chief of Police was the motivational speaker for the final hour speaking on "Finding your Beat, the Rhythm of Life."

Adjourn at 1:45 p.m.

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