

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, April 16, 2024**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Josie Thomopoulos, Steve Young, Majorie Quammen, and Sean Belmont. present. Also, present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer, and Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee.

Bullard made a motion to approve the agenda. Nudell seconded. MCU
Young made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Quammen seconded. MCU
Nudell made a motion to approve the financials. Thomopoulos seconded. MCU

School Updates:

- April 4th – Career and College Fair was held with 30 businesses and colleges having booths at the event.
- May 24th is graduation.
- Site Logic continues to work with employees and others on the plans for the remodeling. They are looking at some drainage plans and may need to work with the City on this.
- Since school started they have seen an increase of about twelve students.

Former Youth Center:

The project continues to progress. The grant application for MN Housing is due at the end of April. The grant helps the developer reduce his expenses so the overall rental can be lower and more in line with what the general workforce in our area can afford. Commissioners asked if there was a stipulation that the rents would stay at a certain level. Martin will find out.

Review of the Breakfast and Brainstorming minutes. Some items of interest that were discussed:

- Wenonga Days Planning
- Otter Tail Tourism Magazine and distribution of calendar/coupon flyer with Battle Lake brochure.
- Passport program sponsored by Weichert Realty featuring new businesses in the last three years.

Distribution of the Otter Tail County CDA Yearly Report. Val highlighted some of the projects that Battle Lake was a part of.

Other Updates/Discussion:

- EDA Commissioners would like to see a representative from LACC attending the EDA meeting at least once in a while.
- Discussion about possible shared promotions – new videos? Val will talk with Steve Henning.
- There is a grant through WCI for Welcoming Communities – is there a project we should consider?
- Members discussed the potential effect the low water level and the boat access issues could have on the economic climate. Sean Belmont had some ideas that he had seen in other places but not necessarily in frozen areas. He would talk to DNR and get back to us.
- There was some discussion on how to get some additional businesses involved. Randy Dorn said that the bank may consider having after-hours events at the bank for businesses once the remodeling is complete. Amy Baldwin from the CDA would be a great resource to talk to the group at these events for a few minutes.
- Granny's will be opening May 24th.
- It is the 5th anniversary of the childcare center opening.

Adjourn at 8:02 a.m.

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