

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Sean Belmont, and Majorie Quammen present. Absent was Josie Thomopolous. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director, Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee, and Sharon Casey representing the LACC.

The commissioners discussed replacing Sean Belmont with another community member as he was just elected to the school board. Some names were discussed. Sharon Casey expressed interest in serving. Bullard made a motion to table elections until the February meeting. Young seconded. MCU

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

Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes with amendment. Dorn seconded. MCU

Nudell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Belmont seconded MCU

The EDA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6th at noon with box lunch being catered by Rusty Nail. Guest speaker to be Ian Carlstrom from WC MN SBDC.

Martin presented a possible grant program for the EDA Commissioners to consider. The grant would utilize the balance of the COVID funds (\$3600) and we would reach out to other entities such as the Battle Lake Lions, Deer Creek Lions, and Battle Lake Area Community Fund to grow this amount with a goal of \$10,000 – the balance to come from the EDA funds. The EDA/City would then apply to the CDA for match funds. The grant program would be for a business beautification program with eligible use for window/door replacement, painting, signs, siding painting, and landscaping. The business would have to provide a match and the match grant probably be \$2500 with a total cost of \$5,000. Several ideas were discussed including helping with operating costs but this would not fall under the CDA grant requirements. The Commissioners want to consider the discussion on operating costs at another meeting but will move forward with this project. The other entities will be approached for donations and more information will be brought back in March.

Breakfast and Brainstorming was discussed. The next meeting to be scheduled for March 12th at the bank at noon with box lunches from Neverbetter. Work needs to be done on a new name for the meeting. Rikka Brandon will be the guest speaker talking about hiring employees.

Nudell gave an update on the school construction project – they are opening bids on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Adjourn at 8:12 a.m.

Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer