



1015 Short Drive, Suite 2 * Prudenville, MI 48651 * (989) 366-8660

Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2020

Attending: Brenda Bachelder, Ed Bergeron, Katherine Methner, Theresa Ekdom, Bob Schneider, Al Cambridge, Pam Kincaid, Kathleen Fox, Mike Briggs, Jim Raschke

Absent: Emily Barber, Phil Bendily, Neil Belanger and Marc Milburn

Guests: Cyle Gillman

- I. Call to Order (ACT) – The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Theresa Ekdom
- II. Pledge of Allegiance (ACT) – The pledge of alliance was completed.
- III. Agenda Changes (DIS) – There were not any changes to the agenda
- IV. Introduction of Guests (INF) – Brenda Bachelder introduced Cyle Gillman to the group.
- V. Approval of June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes (ACT) –
- VI. Treasurer’s Report (INF) – Katherine Methner motion to review and file. Ed Bergeron supported. Al Cambridge against –everyone else approved.
- VII. Executive Director’s Report (INF) – Brenda Bachelder presented the report.
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. By Law Review Update – Theresa Ekdom updated the board that they have not had a meeting yet, but will set date at with Ed Bergeron, Theresa Ekdom, and Bob Schneider.
 - B. EMCOG CEDS Update – Ed Bergeron said Roscommon County was well represented. To be wrapped up by end of September and report issued. To set follow ups to stay on top of progress
 - C. Broadband Update – Katherine Methner reported spoke with Chris @ Connect America and can assess our broadband. That validation is about \$50,000 but we can apply for grants. We will need to have this assessment done to increase our broadband coverage. Board decided it should be a countywide effort and should be a priority.
 - D. Business Update – The Roscommon DDA purchased the Au Sable Drug store in Roscommon and is utilizing the brownfield program though EGLE. Kathleen Fox spoke about the trade programs Kirtland is offering.



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- IX. New Business
 - A. Collaborative Mini Grant Request – Higgins Lake Roscommon, Houghton Lake and Saint Helen Chambers \$800. Al Cambridge made the motion and Jim Raschke seconded it. All approved.
 - B. Resignation- Margie Lathrop – Brenda Bachelder
 - C. Michigan Small Business Restart Program Admin % – Brenda Bachelder estimates that the EDC will receive about \$45,000. She does not have the details yet on what the admin funding can be used for.

- X. Board Member Reports (INF) –Ed Bergeron said the area businesses are having problems getting help. MSU extension might have knowledge to help us influence our workforce and overcome our obstacles. Kathleen Fox voiced concerns about the factories wanting people to work long hours for a sub average wage. Katherine Fox stated that Lear is a corporate run factory that is in charge of our local wages – has long hours and crummy working conditions. Theresa Ekdorn HL Tourism bureau has rescheduled their drawing for Catch Me If you Can to September 19th. 7 anglers to draw. Pam Kincaid reported about the merger of Chemical Bank to TCF Bank 2 weeks ago. and the status of PPP loan forgiveness. Mike Briggs asked a few follow up questions. Brenda Bachelder said Lear is negotiating their contract currently. Emily Barber is working a full time job. Kirtland is listed For Sale.

- XI. Guest Comments (INF) – Bob Schneider said the county is starting their budgeting process and COVID funding.

- XII. Agenda items for upcoming meeting (DIS) – n/a
Meeting adjourned 9:14am.

Next meeting: 8 a.m. September 24th via Go To Meeting