

Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
8 a.m. May 27, 2021

Members present: Katherine Methner, Theresa Ekdom, Vijay Kumar, Al Cambridge, Neil Belanger, Bob Schneider, Ed Bergeron, Wendy Engle, Marc Milburn, Mike Briggs, Shawn Petrie, Jim Raschke

Members absent: Brenda Bachelder, Pam Kincaid

Meeting called to Order by Katherine at 8 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Agenda changes – Pam is not present at the meeting, so will not discuss financial education grant.

Motion by Vijay to accept April 29 meeting minutes, seconded by Jim. No discussion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report was received. Comment from board member that there was still no information on the microloan activity. He would like to know the total of what is available to loan out, and the total of what is outstanding.

A note from Rebecca regarding the loan program asks EDC to send a reminder to the delinquent loan member(s). Discussion on whether collateral was required prior to the loan. Bob will check with Brenda, Jodi, and Rebecca.

Move by Al to accept and file the financials.

Executive Director's Report from Brenda was attached for all to read.

Katherine discussed the fact it is still hard to find employees, some employers are offering sign on bonuses. Discussion on the status of Brownfield properties.

Old Business:

- American Rescue Plan / County Wide Strategic Planning – Discussion on uses of the ARP and counties can use it for .
 - 151 pages to the plan according to Bob. Jodi and Bob went through it and continue to work through it. 2.3 million received, Townships are getting their own.
 - Full time director – Bob has talked with EDC and MSU Extension. The county could have a full time EDC director for \$80,000 according to MSUE, with additional monies to cover rent and other office expenses. Figures the EDC cost would be around \$75,000 plus the \$44,000 that the county already pays.
- Financial Education Grant – tabled.

New Business

- Meeting Structure – Katherine – discussed topic at the executive board meeting. Suggested we return to in-person meetings Aug. 1. Brenda could arrange to have meetings in the COA side of her building. With COVID restrictions changing we would have to play it by ear. We could still offer hybrid meetings with Zoom and in person attendance.

- Roberts Rules of Order – a ‘cheat sheet’ was sent to the board.
- Covid 19 Microloan Repayment Update – Covered earlier in the meeting. One loan is delinquent. The others are up to date in payments.
- MEDA webinar subscription service – there is a \$99 plan to attend webinars. Any board member can let Brenda know if they are interested in the webinars.

Covid 19 Health Update given by Jim. We are getting to a better place state wide. In Roscommon County we have a vaccine hesitancy and are not at 70% yet. Health Departments not holding mass vaccine clinics anymore – will have to call them to get a vaccine. Health Care facilities will still require masks for a while.

Roscommon County Business Update – There’s a new restaurant coming to Roscommon. AuSable Bakery in Roscommon closed. Ed was able to tour LSSU in St. Helen. EDC might consider having a meeting there to see the facility and what they are doing. Ed is willing to set up a meeting if desired.

Board Member Comments – Great Getaways program on Roscommon County to be shown on PBS soon. (May 27 and July 3)

No guest, so no guest comments.

Please send agenda items for the next meeting to Brenda.

Next meeting 8 a.m. June 24, 2021 via Zoom.