

Roscommon County Economic Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
August 26, 2021

Members present: Wendy Engle, Michael Briggs, Katherine Methner, Theresa Ekdorn, Vijay Kumar, Marc Milburn, Bob Schneider, Al Cambridge, Shawn Petrie, Neil Belanger, and Ed Bergeron

Guests present: Brenda Bachelder, Economic Development Director

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

No agenda changes requested

Minutes of June reviewed (no meeting in July) – Under ‘old business’ there was a copy/paste section repeated. Motion to approve minutes with this duplicated section deleted by Marc Milburn, seconded by Al Cambridge. Motion approved.

Treasurers Report – Report by Brenda Bachelder. Looking for clarifications on Michigan Works Contract and on Marketing small grants. Motion by Al to accept and file. Seconded by Vijay Kumar.

Executive Director’s Report – see attachment. Additional report on American Rescue Plan steering committee report.

Old Business: Financial Education Grant – the grant has been extended because of Covid restrictions. Pam Kincaid is reaching out to SMDA for training opportunities.

ARP – Steering committee was formed and has been meeting weekly. 5 areas to fund were determined – Roscommon County, Broadband, Child Care, Economic Development, and Human Resources.

EDC Strategic Plan Service Agreement – the EDC has reached out to three organizations. MSU was able to provide the best services. See attached agreement from MSU. Motion to approve the Service Agreement with MSU to provide visioning and action planning sessions at a cost of \$1060.00. Motion by Theresa Ekdorn, seconded by Neil Belanger. Motion approved.

New Business: ARP Request Economic Development – discussion on requesting money from ARP for grant to assist businesses effected by Covid. Committee formed to continue discussion with Brenda, Katherine, Theresa, Ed, and Vijay to work on this.

Reappointment of Theresa Ekdorn and Katherine Methner. Motion by Al to recommend reappointment of both Theresa Ekdorn and Katherine Methner to the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Neil. Motion approved.

M-55 Byway – The Houghton Lake Area Tourism Bureau is looking to have M-55 declared a Historic and Natural Byway. Information only at this time, but will request support when the project progresses.

Board Member Comments – Live webcam of Houghton Lake has been shown on both Channel 7 & 4 News and Fox 2 News out of Detroit.

Mike – The old bank on the west side of Higgins Lake is going to become a Real Estate Office

Old Manor Market on Higgins Lake has been purchased; Gerrish Township approved the Dollar General proposal; Family Dollar going in Saint Helen; The Butcher's Wife is going in Roscommon.

Any agenda items for the next meeting get to Brenda.

Next meeting will be held September 30.

Motion by Vijay to adjourn, seconded by Bob.