

Lanesboro Economic Development Authority (EDA)

Special Meeting – April 3, 2017

Minutes

Special joint meeting of the Lanesboro EDA and the Lanesboro City Council

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Mayor Autumn Johnson at 5:00 PM

EDA Members Present: Michael Brown, Elaine Edwards, Tom Smith, Jason Resseman

EDA Members Absent: LuAnn Wilcox

Ex Officio: Administrator/Treasurer Peterson

City Council Members Present: Bridget Harvey, Autumn Johnson, Marge Drake, Tom Smith, Jason Resseman.

EDA President Edwards and EDA Secretary Brown restated the intent of the meeting to solicit from council their perspectives on which economic development activities should be pursued.

Ms. Johnson: Ms. Johnson stated her interest in the EDA continuing to utilize revolving loan funds to assist local businesses. She stated she had no preference for which businesses were served.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Smith noted he would like to see an exploration of possible incentive programs to foster investment in Lanesboro. The incentives could be for housing, new building and could include utility incentives or permit fee waivers.

Mr. Resseman: Mr. Resseman acknowledged the idea of incentives but in light of the compelling attributes of Lanesboro such incentives should be used judiciously and in particular for the attraction of 12 month businesses. Mr. Resseman suggested reaching out to Mayo to explore opportunities for locating within Lanesboro a Mayo satellite operation. He also stressed a need to improve the linkage between the EDA and Chamber. He would like to see a commercial sales package to assist those looking to locate here as well as having the EDA connect with local realtors to understand what would assist them in driving relocation or investment in Lanesboro. Mr. Resseman also noted the strength of the school as an asset to leverage.

Ms. Drake: Ms. Drake noted the dearth of housing options available and in particular starter homes or lower income affordable housing. A discussion of the housing authority ensued. EDA President Edwards will be meeting with representatives of the housing authority to explore options and understand potential investments. Mr. Resseman noted the number of homes underutilized as they are second and vacation homes and wondered if there were options to change utility or other fee structures to drive equity or transition the second/vacation homes to full time residences.

Ms. Harvey: Ms. Harvey echoed the need for housing options. She noted that there are individuals who live here and want to stay here but are unable to as there are no suitable dwellings available. She would like to see an emphasis on housing options to capitalize on this low hanging fruit as it is easier to keep families/individuals here than recruit those that do not live here.

EDA Secretary Brown recapped the conversation as identifying three desires from council: Pursue 12 month businesses, expand housing options, and leverage loan programs to assist local business.

The council expressed a willingness to meet again on a quarterly basis to continue this dialogue.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Resseman. Motion carried. Adjourn at 5:28 PM