

# Lanesboro Economic Development Authority (EDA)

## Regular Meeting – April 5, 2017

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Edwards at 5:00 PM

**Members Present:** Michael Brown, Elaine Edwards, Tom Smith, Jason Resseman, LuAnn Wilcox

**Members Absent:** None

**Ex Officio:** Administrator/Treasurer Peterson

**Guests Present:** Terri Scott (school liaison)

#### Motion to Approve the Agenda:

Members requested to add 4.1 Information Packet and 4.2 Hosting Activity. Mr. Smith moved to approve the agenda as modified. Second by Ms. Edwards. Motion carried.

#### Approval of Minutes:

#### **Motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2017 and April 3, 2017:**

Motion to approve by Ms. Wilcox. Second by Mr. Resseman. Motion Carried.

### **1. Election of Officers**

#### **1.1. Vice-President**

Mr. Brown nominated Mr. Smith. Second by Ms. Wilcox. No other nominations. Motion carried.

### **2. Updates**

#### **2.1. School Update**

Ms. Scott was available for questions. She noted the expansion of the daycare was approved. 19 families were on the wait list, 12 of which are out of district. By bringing these families into the daycare it is likely to retain these families for school enrollment.

#### **2.2. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Peterson will send out tomorrow an updated report. There has been little/no activity on the accounts.

### **2.3. City Council**

Ms. Peterson provided an update on the City Council. The city has contracted with a new garbage hauler. At an initial hearing at a capital committee the Lanesboro Dam received unanimous support. More steps to follow.

### **2.4. Chamber of Commerce**

No update but a brief of activity was distributed from the Chamber prior to the EDA meeting. Mr. Resseman stated for the record he was extremely disappointed a representative/board member of the Chamber was not present. Ms. Edwards noted the Chamber director had previously notified the EDA of conflicts for the April meeting but an availability for the May meeting. Ms. Edwards stated for the record the EDA does have a good relationship with the Chamber and we have been communicating/working with them. The EDA will work with the Chamber to establish a joint meeting with an intent for it to become a repeating event. The EDA will reach out to the group formerly known as the Downtown Business Alliance to similarly strengthen the collaboration/cooperation.

### **2.5. Downtown Business Alliance**

The meeting date of the Lanesboro Business Promotions group has changed and there was no meeting since the last EDA meeting on which to report.

### **2.6. Business, Advertising & Social Media**

This activity is currently suspended. Mr. Resseman was briefed on the rationale for the suspension. Mr. Resseman would like the EDA to refer back to a set of marketing points created a few years ago and look at resuming our outreach activities leveraging common social media tools. Ms. Wilcox noted the Chamber made an inquiry of interest in advertising in the Rochester visitors guide. No action from the EDA was taken.

Mr. Brown noted the dependency of the success of the EDA on the enabling ordinances and codes established by Planning & Zoning. As a member of P&Z, Mr. Resseman stated a willingness to act as a liaison. The standing agenda entry for city updates will be amended to include P&Z and HPC.

### **2.7. Fillmore County EDA**

Mr. Brown noted there was no meeting of the Fillmore County EDA in March. Mr. Brown provided a review of the key actions at the county EDA and the engagement of the CEDA representative with local Lanesboro business owners.

## **3. Old Business**

### **3.1. City funds for loans**

Mr. Brown provided a review of his discussion with the USDA Rural office regarding application for revolving loan funds. While possible, the process is challenging and the next opportunity will be early 2018 and will require extensive preparation. The members discussed making the city

provided grant of \$7500 available as loan funds in the interim but without sacrificing the ability to apply for matching grants. The city grant is unrestricted as to use unlike the small cities revolving loans funds. Ms. Wilcox noted we may need to adjust the adopted loan fund policy to provide for flexibility in loaning the city grant funds. The current policy will be distributed for review.

### **3.2. EDA property**

Ms. Peterson has investigated the history of the community center. The EDA bonded for its construction and it was leased to the city with payments to repay the bond. The title to the community center was to have passed to the city after satisfying the bond payments. Attorney Manion will prepare the transfer paperwork.

### **3.3. Feasibility Study**

Ms. Edwards briefed the EDA on activities related to the Feasibility study. She has a working group and is looking to expand that membership as they seek additional input and discuss future steps. This is independent of any particular entity that may be interested in participating in constructing Senior/Assisted housing.

## **4. New Business**

### **4.1. Information Packet**

The members discussed the need to have an information packet available to interested businesses or potential residents that would provide basic demographic/business data. Members were asked to look for examples that we might use as a template. Mr. Brown will contact CEDA to see what data they have available. Mr. Brown will distribute a previously developed basic business presentation.

### **4.2. Hosting Activities**

Ms. Wilcox provided an update on the Decorah home/garden/sport show and inquired about doing something similar in the Lanesboro area. She expressed a willingness to lead any effort. The members discussed the concept and challenges/opportunities. Mr. Brown will bring up the idea at the next Fillmore County EDA to gauge interest. This will also be discussed with the Chamber as they may be a more natural sponsor and driver.

## **5. Items from Members**

### **5.1. See 4.1 and 4.2**

See above.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Resseman, second by Ms. Wilcox. Motion carried. Adjourn at 6:52 PM