

# Florence County Economic Development COMMITTEE MEETING

*MISSION: to retain, expand and recruit a diversified business population which provides broad and varied job opportunities while safeguarding the area's natural surroundings.*

**Date: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Time: Thursday, 5:00 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room Courthouse**

1. **Call to order and roll call:** Chairman F. Modschiedler called the meeting to order. Members J. Bomberg, G. Steber, L. Dzekute and F. Modschiedler and were present. K. Davis was absent. Director W. Gehlhoff was also present.
2. **Approve agenda:** Agenda was approved on a motion by L. Dzekute, G. Steber 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.
3. **Approve minutes:** Minutes were approved on a motion by G. Steber, L. Dzekute 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.
4. **Economic Development 2020 Budget:** On a motion by J. Bomberg, L. Dzekute 2<sup>nd</sup>, the draft budget was approved and forwarded to Audit and Budget. Motion carried.
5. **CDBG CLOSE PFED Project:**
  - a. **Non-interest Bearing Bank Account:** on a motion by G. Steber, L. Dzekute 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was approval to open a new non-interest bearing bank account at Great North Bank as required by the CDBG CLOSE PFED grant project. Motion Carried. Only grant \$'s will go in and then out of this account.
  - b. **Grant Administration Firm:** on a motion by G. Steber, J. Bomberg 2<sup>nd</sup>, the decision to select MSA Professional Services grant administration bid made by J. Bestor, County Financial Manager and W. Gehlhoff, ED Director as directed by the ED Committee at their June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was officially approved. Motion carried. As directed, the winning bid (MSA 100 pts.) based on the pre-determined point system was awarded the contract at the end of June. Graef (86 pts.) was the only other bid received. They were notified of their non-winning bid on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
  - c. **Job Creation Agreement:** This item was approved at County Board meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>. G&G Lumber, Inc. decided to supply a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage as collateral for the Job Creation Agreement.
  - d. **CDBG Training:** On a motion by J. Bomberg, G. Steber 2<sup>nd</sup>, ED Director is approved to attend a full day CDBG Grant Implementation training in Rothschild as required by the state. Motion carried.
  - e. **CDBG Award and Pre-Agreement Documents:** Director gave update on other required documents.
  - f. **CDBG Project Construction Budget and Timeline:** There were 7 construction bids opened and recorded on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The low qualified bid for \$418,172.50 was awarded on August 8<sup>th</sup> to Ruotsala Construction from Ironwood, MI. The pre-construction meeting is planned for August 26<sup>th</sup>. The final CDBG Grant agreement between the County and the State will hopefully be signed that week as well after which on-the-ground construction can proceed.
6. **WDNR Master Plan letter:** On a motion by J. Bomberg, G. Steber 2<sup>nd</sup>, a letter was approved and sent to County Board demanding government to government coordination and expressing grave concerns with new content inserted into Master Plan final draft that is harmful to our Forest Products and Tourism Industries. Motion carried.
7. **RLF Loan Payments/Program Updates:** Tavern on Central paid off loan early. Kurtz Diesel loan is nearly done. Other 8 loans are paying. RLF Bank Account was closed as required by the state. RLF Financial Manager 1.5 hour/week job is done. County Treasurer's office now receipts loan payments and prints monthly report. Tipler Bar & Grill bringing copy of lease with 2 men who rescue restaurants. FCED will retain 1<sup>st</sup> position mortgage. From lease payments, \$300/month will be paid on loan. MBank sent a letter requesting FCED subordinate to them on a refinancing mortgage and UCC for Spread Eagle

Equipment Sales. On a motion by J. Bomberg, G. Steber 2<sup>nd</sup>, the committee agreed to subordinate on the mortgage only. FCED will remain in first position on the blanket UCC. Motion carried.

8. **Revised Job Description:** On a motion by G. Steber, L. Dzekute 2<sup>nd</sup>, the updated Economic Development Job Description was approved and sent on to Personnel Committee. Motion carried.
9. **Assisted Living Project:** Director has met with a new group investigating a smaller 32-bed assisted living facility. The group includes one member who owns/operates similar facilities in Wisconsin.
10. **Update on Economic Development Projects:** Director is nearly done redesigning Waterfall Guide. Our website company shared their first draft of new website design. A new storage and repair business in Long Lake submitted an application for a microloan. Long Lake broadband tower was hit by a tree and Northwoods Connect equipment was damaged. Will repair as soon as guy wires stabilized.
11. **Board Member Concerns:** J. Bomberg asked that a 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway be recommended for the old B&H Pattern building purchased last year by Hannah Brothers Welding. A larger logging truck is struggling to pull in and out of there which is starting to tear up the class A road. Director will discuss with M. Milan. F. Modscheidler shared they are getting a lot of calls about ATVing, especially since the trails in Langlade and Oneida County are blocked by all the severe storms the last month. Florence County trails are well groomed and ready to go thanks to the Blue Ox volunteers.
12. **Adjournment:** On a motion by L. Dzekute, J. Bomberg 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gehlhoff – FCED Director