

Florence County Economic Development RLF COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

Date: August 24th, 2016

Time: Wednesday, 4:30 pm, 2nd Floor Jury Room – Courthouse

1. Call to order & roll call

The meeting was called to order by chairman, G. Steber. Commissioners G. Steber, T. Bomberg, E. Wenger and A. Reubens were present. S. McLain was absent. Director W. Gehlhoff and loan applicants Emily Payette and Bruce Winchell were also present.

2. Approve agenda

On a motion by T. Bomberg, E. Wenger 2nd, the agenda was approved with the budget year for agenda item #6 changed from 2016 to 2017 and loan 2016-61 to be reviewed first. Motion carried.

3. Approve minutes

On a motion by T. Bomberg, A. Reubens 2nd, the minutes were approved with one change. E. Wenger did not attend and was excused for the 3/17/16 meeting. Motion carried.

4. Discussion/Action on RLF Loan Applications(s)

- a. RLF loan #2016-61 was reviewed. This loan will help purchase the empty day care building. Our employers and school have lost employees and families due to no day care in Florence for the last 2 years. Applicant Emily Winchell currently operates Auntie M's Child Care Center in Niagara with a 4 out of 5 start rating from the Wisc. Dept. of Children & Families. She is well positioned to run a 2nd Auntie M's Child Care Center location. On a motion by E. Wenger, B. DallaGrana 2nd, the \$55,000 loan at 4% interest for a 12-year term creating 2 FTE jobs was approved with a 3-month deferral pending all paperwork required by the RLF Loan Program. Motion carried.
- b. RLF loan #2016-60 was reviewed. Tim Dettman has had 3 prior loans as Clean Kill Pest Control with no late payments. He is starting a new business called Spread Eagle Equipment Sales. This loan will buy equipment and create 4 new FTE positions. On a motion by E. Wenger, T. Bomberg 2nd a loan for \$120,000 at 4% interest for a 10-year term was approved. Motion carried.

5. Discussion/Action on Bill list approval

On a motion by E. Wenger, A. Reubens 2nd, the monthly bills were approved. Motion carried.

6. Discussion/Action on ED Commission 2017 Budget

On a motion by A. Reubens, T. Bomberg 2nd, the 2017 budget was approved. Motion carried.

7. Update on Economic Development projects

The attached project updates were reviewed.

8. Board member concerns

The Chamber may need to pull flowers early due to main street infrastructure project. F&P looking into building a stage at Keyes Lake park which would eliminate stage rental cost for Summerfest.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by E. Wenger, T. Bomberg 2nd, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gehlhoff – FCEDC Director

EDC Project Update August 24th, 2016

- **RLF Loan Program**
 - 14 loans in Fence, Florence, Tipler, Long Lake. Loanable balance \$211,000. Tipler B&G in default.
 - Two loan applications requesting total of \$175,000 under review. Would leave \$36,000 balance.
- **Forest Products Industry Support**
 - Helping plan Forest Industry Day for FHS students (5th-12th grades) to get hands on exposure to the industry equipment, sustainable forestry and careers via \$1500 John Force Forestry Education grant.
 - Working with businesses to join free Supply Chain network to help grow their customer options.
 - State data shows Florence County total forestry/wood products jobs doubled between 2012 and 2014 from 131 up to 262. Payroll increased from \$5 million up to \$7.5 million and direct taxes went from \$119,000 up to \$310,000 while indirect taxes went from \$535,000 to \$1.2 million. (WDNR Economist)
- **Business Development and Entrepreneur Support**
 - Worked with 3 different day care providers, school and HSD to get an offer on the Chapin St. business.
 - Met with Crivitz pharmacist and DCH staff to initiate an agreement for a Telepharmacy business to rent space at the DCH Florence Medical Clinic. This creates 1.5 new pharmacy tech jobs and Rx for residents.
 - Assisted Living facility waiting on federal L1 investment monies – investors being vetted by feds.
 - Application to WEDC Connect Communities Downtown business growth initiative was approved – Downtown kick-off meeting is 9/21/16 with assistance from WEDC state level resource people.
 - \$3,500 Catholic Diocese Economic Development Technical Assistance grant led to consultant completed feasibility study for collective selling options for local producers. 10 people attended meeting and wish to first pursue a combined website to increase their sales followed by exploring models for retail store.
 - 2016 County Sales Tax Revenue through July down \$500 vs. 2015. Projecting \$240,000 for 2016.
- **Florence High School/Public Fab Lab**
 - Planning August 25th Industry Advisory meeting to discuss projects/plans for 2017/2018 school year.
 - Promoting public fab lab hours to encourage residents to explore “making things”.
- **TIF District (TID)**
 - Birchwood Meadows Assisted Living Developer Agreement signed by county and Zadeks.
 - 2 new TID proposals to review – one for a day care facility and one for a Telepharmacy at DCH Clinic.
 - DOR posted the 2016 TID Values – our TID increased 12% versus 2015. Up nearly \$3 million since 2014.
- **Tourism and Website Projects**
 - Implementation of \$5,600 Tourism JEM grant to promote WI Wild Rivers waterfalls tour this fall included to date: Waterfall Guide content and photo revisions, 8”x11” flyer/map design, data tracking for visitor center, facebook campaign, photo contest plans, radio ads, press releases, billboard design, new sign routes and seasonal postcard mailer. Goal is facebook likes up to 9,000 and new visitors \$’s.
 - Did press releases, posters, ads & web promotion for Badwater Bass Tourney = 90 non-local fishermen.
 - Did press releases, posters, ads, web and facebook for Summerfest & Hunnies, Hot Rods & Hogs event.
- **Northwoods Rail Transit Commission (NRTC)**
 - On Michigan Rail Conference panel promoting the need for rail to improve regional economy.
 - Working with industry groups to define network of rail needed to service FP industry.
- **Other Projects**
 - Working on Florence attraction flyer to share with regional realtors, large employers and visitors.