

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2023

EDC President Bob Forster called the meeting to order Thursday July 13, 2023 at 6 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present at the meeting were President--Robert Forster, Tammy Dubbels-Vice-President, secretary Suzette Arndt, Dolores Mueller, Phil Anderson, Linda Blonn was absent.

EDC meeting minutes from June 8, 2023 were reviewed and Bob Forster entertained a motioned to approve the minutes as presented.

Tammy Dubbels stated that Chief Jim Smith is retiring from the Police department. Asking for a donation up to \$400 for the town to do a luncheon and gathering for him. Donations have been taken from the Town Board members. The cost seems to going to be around \$150 or \$200 but we want to be sure to have enough funds to cover cost. Suzette Arndt motioned that we approve up to \$400 to cover the cost of the retirement gathering of Chief Jim Smith. Phil Anderson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Suzette Arndt asked for a verbal confirmation that all EDC members present would like to serve on the board for another year. Robert Forster, Tammy Dubbels, Dolores Muller, Phil Anderson and Suzette Arndt all said they would like to serve. Linda Blonn was sent an email and she responded that she would also like to be on the board for another year.

Tammy Dubbels shared that the parking lot that needs to be done at Town Hall for the Police parking in the rear of the building. The land next to the Town Hall is contaminated from the previous gas station. We are talking to the town lawyer Bob Schwerd to find out if we were to touch disturb the land will we have to remediate the soil, if that is the case then we would just gravel the area instead of paving. Tammy Dubbels will inform the EDC when she has heard from him.

Dolores Mueller asked about an overhang that could be in the rear for when weather is bad and to protect cars. Tammy Dubbels will speak the clerk treasurer Laurie Tribble to see if the EDC can do that.

A Façade grant for the building at 209 S Main was presented for a sign to be replaced. The cost of the sign is \$4890 and he is requesting \$2445 from the EDC. Tammy Dubbels made a motion to approve the Façade grant for \$2445. Suzette Arndt seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Tammy Dubbels spoke to Orville Jefferson (Park Director) about the movie in the park

that was supposed to happen this year, they were not able to get speakers to hook up to the projector. Orville and Tammy spoke that maybe next year getting a movie in the Park sound system, which would include the screen, projector, sound system, speakers. the system runs about \$3500. Orville Jefferson will look into it and bring it to the EDC when he has more information.

Tammy Dubbels brought to the attention that MCO who does the town water maintenance had applied for an IPED grant last year for a camera to scope the piped in the system. the town pays up to \$1500 every time we have to have the lines checked. The grant was denied in the amount of \$10,900. The town does not have the money to purchase the scope system. It would belong to the Town of Kouts. Cory Clarke (MCO) will get the information for the best camera system for our town.

Jeremy Gettler (Fire Chief) came and asked if the EDC would reinstate the \$5000 per year that was discontinued in 2021. Tammy Dubbels stated that she read over the previous year's minutes and we were not able to prove where the money had been spent. We had asked for books from the Fire Department at that time because we needed to see where the money was going and the Fire Department did not produce them, so we had to move the money to the Capital Outlay fund. It was explained to Chief Gettler that if we get audited from the state, we need to be able to show where the money has gone. It would be better for the Fire Department to come to the EDC and request us to assist them in getting equipment replaced. Chief Gettler said he understands and will approach the EDC if needed.

Dolores Mueller stated that she applied for grants for 3 new laptops for the Police cars. If the grants are denied can the EDC cover the cost of the laptops. Suzette Arndt asked what funds were in the Continuing ED. Dolores Mueller said she did not know, she was under the impression that the funds were just for the Police car replacement. Suzette Arndt said the funds were for bullets, vest, anything that the police need. Tammy Dubbels suggested that Dolores Mueller find out how much money is in Cont. Ed fund and how much each laptop is going to cost.

Tammy Dubbels asked that we look at our budget for 2024 and see if we need to move any funds around. It appears that the funds are in a good place. We are negative in our funds for the new website. Laurie Tribble can pull money from the engineering fund to cover that account. Right now, we have about \$61000 left in the Capital Outlay.

Orville Jefferson has decided to go with a simple basketball court with new hoops and lights and a couple of benches to bring the cost down. He will be getting quotes and bring them to the EDC. He is looking at a ½ mile walking track around the park for the future use.

Bob Forster asked if we need to increase the fund for the police cars due to increasing cost of vehicles. Tammy Dubbels said that

Laurie Tribble believes that what is in there is enough. They have a cumulative fund just like the Fire Department to help off set the cost of a new car.

A motion was made to accept the Budget Report. Dolores Mueller made a motion to accept The budget for 2024. Phil Anderson seconded. Motion carried 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm

President Robert Forster

Vice-President Tammy Dubbels

Secretary Suzette Arndt

Dolores Mueller

Phil Anderson