

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
December 20, 2018
7 p.m. Trail County EDC Office – Hillsboro, ND

Board of Directors present: Ben Hershey, Rick Halvorson, Roxanne Phipps, Gary Nysveen, Paul Geray and Scott Hovde. Also present: Jim Murphy – Executive Director, Alyssa Short – Project Coordinator, David Johnson – incoming Director, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner and Bryce Haugen – Trail County Tribune.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairman Hershey.

The board reached quorum when Hovde was reached by phone at 7:09 p.m.

Introductions

Murphy introduced David Johnson, who will join the board in 2019, representing Mayville.

Additions to Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Report

Halvorson moved to accept the Nov. 20, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Nysveen. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Geray moved to accept the Nov. 20, 2018 treasurer's report, seconded by Phipps. Motion carried.

Hershey inquired about the status of the Newman Outdoor Signs contract. TCEDC is under contract through April 1, 2019. Murphy and A. Short will send the cancellation letter early in 2019. Nysveen moved to approve payment of checks as submitted, Halvorson seconded. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the 2018 tax collections. This year's shortfall was much less than that of previous years.

Hovde left the meeting at 7:12 p.m., meaning the board no longer had quorum for the remainder of the meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Murphy gave an update on the planning for the job fair and career expo Jan. 23 in Mayville. He also had a conversation with the Transition Office at the Grand Forks Air Force Base regarding local employment opportunities for those transitioning from military to civilian life.



Murphy gave an update on natural gas talks. He also recapped meetings with SBA representatives regarding free educational opportunities for county businesses, Hatton businesspeople regarding their vision for the community and reps from the Small Business Development Center about their resources and ongoing educational opportunities.

He met with a client regarding Renaissance Zone tax incentives and programs and mentioned that Hillsboro City Commission President Terry Sando would like to hold an informational seminar in the new year.

For marketing and promotion efforts, Murphy said the Shop Local campaign continues to be promoted, and TCEDC has applied for a Partners in Marketing grant.

From a quality of life standpoint, Murphy said TUG has continued its administration of the MayPort Market grants and finished the grant administration for the Buxton Park Board AARP grant, as well as continued website work for Hillsboro EDC and Trail County. Murphy also has continued helping with the 501(c)3 paperwork for the Hillsboro Food Pantry and assisted a local volunteer fire department in identifying funding options for equipment that needs to be replaced.

Career Expo and Job Fair update

Murphy said he has received 13 yes responses from Trail County employers, and has a goal of 20 to 25. He'll send posters to area schools. Nysveen volunteered to help the day of the job fair.

Natural gas update

Murphy has continued to monitor the potential natural gas situation. City of Hillsboro representatives recently engaged in talks, as well.

Community Pulse survey

Murphy still needs input from board members, but this is tabled until March so he can focus on the job fair.

2019 mileage for board members

Tabled until January meeting due to lack of quorum.

End of year financial update

TCEDC is in relatively good shape and didn't have to transfer operating funds. At an upcoming meeting the board should discuss moving \$10,000 to the reserve fund.

Officers/committees for 2019

Tabled until January due to lack of quorum. Hershey noted that regular attendance is needed from more directors.

Marketing committee recommendations

Murphy recapped the marketing committee's recommendation to submit the Partners in Marketing grant application with no financial commitment at this time.

Apple’s Group Facetime option for distance meetings

Murphy mentioned this as an option to help encourage director attendance. Hershey said there’s nothing in the bylaws to preclude this. Murphy said he and A. Short would research free meeting and conference call software options.

Community updates

Geray – A legislative forum is scheduled at the Hillsboro Community Center in January. Randy Habeck is this year’s Hillsboro Business Association president. Pickleball games will start at the Hillsboro armory. Attendance at the Christmas Carnival was down a bit but still fairly steady. The Hillsboro EDC office is moving to city hall. Christmas Cash is doing OK.

Halvorson – Nothing exciting in Galesburg. There are some issues with the city council to get fixed.

Phipps – Hatton Christmas festivities were well attended. The school addition has been enclosed. The beautification committee did a great job with light displays in the community.

Nysveen – The City of Hillsboro is hosting an open house for Ed Olsen Dec. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Johnson – Winterfest was very well attended. A “Save Shopko” petition is making the rounds. Murphy explained that he has calls into both Shopko corporate and the company that owns the building in Mayville, and is researching what it might take to keep Shopko in Mayville. He explained that the Stanley Shopko likely will remain open but it’s a very different situation than Mayville’s. Johnson continued on that restaurants are coming back to life in Mayville, with Back Alley Coffee, the Von Dutch and Dakota Boys open or preparing to open, and Subway potentially making a move across town.

Hershey – The Buxton Park Board received its \$2,000 check from TUG for the AARP grant. Installation of the playground equipment was a struggle and the board still needs to make room for a swingset in the park. The Cenex manager is retiring and there’s uncertainty about the business’ future. The Buxton Fire Department has been pursuing grants for a new battery-operated jaws of life, and will receive \$5,000 from American Crystal Sugar. The park board is trying to keep the ice in the park strong through a recent warm stretch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Officer (printed name & office)	Signature	Date
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Recording Secretary (printed name)	Signature	Date
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