

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
January 17, 2019
7 p.m. Trail County EDC Office – Hillsboro, ND

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Hershey.

Introductions

Murphy introduced Eblen, who represents the Traill County Commission.

Additions to Agenda

Hershey added committee assignments to the list of old business, and the housing report to new business.

Secretary's Report

Halvorson moved to accept the Dec. 20, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Hovde. Motion carried.

Hovet inquired about using a conference line to phone in for future meetings. Murphy and A. Short will research free conferencing options.

Treasurer's Report

The board reviewed the year-end financial reports. A. Short noted that TCEDC ended the year with a surplus and didn't do many of the things they would have liked to do in order to ensure they didn't end up with a shortfall similar to that of 2017.

Nysveen moved to accept the Dec. 20, 2018 treasurer's report, seconded by Hovet. Motion carried.

Phipps moved to approve payment of checks as submitted, Geray seconded. Motion carried.

The board also reviewed the first of the 2019 tax collections.

Executive Director's Report

Murphy recapped a meeting with the director of the Valley Innovation Programs in which they discussed how area residents might be able to use the facility for workforce development. Murphy noted this type of facility is in line with Gov. Burgum's career academies initiative.



Among other notes, Murphy said he has continued to reach out to Shopko and its building owners regarding the closure of the Mayville store. He said the property company is willing to negotiate with Shopko, but not to the level that would allow Shopko to remain open.

Career Expo and Job Fair update

Murphy said the plans were set for the Jan. 23 Career Expo and Job Fair, and he welcomes assistance from volunteers. TCEDC/TUG is finishing its final print advertising and social media blast. The City of Mayville waived the fee for the armory, so the booth rental fees will go toward advertising expenses.

Natural gas update

The Trall County Commission received a packet from Dakota Natural Gas, a company interested in bringing natural gas to Hillsboro and Mayville, and doing feasibility studies for Buxton and Hatton. They're looking for commitments from bigger consumers, such as American Crystal, Sanford, Mayville State, the county, etc. They'd also pick up residential customers along the way.

Community Pulse survey

Geray is the only board member to respond thus far. Murphy will re-send his request for information to the board.

Board elections and committee assignments

Nominating Committee members Hovde and Phipps presented possible officer nominees. Nysveen moved to elect Hershey as Chair, Geray as Vice Chair and Hovde as Treasurer, seconded by Hovet. Motion carried.

The following committee appointments were made by Chairman Hershey:

Executive Committee:

- Ben Hershey, Chair
- Paul Geray
- Scott Hovde
- Les Amb or Tom Eblen (Tom will discuss with Les)
- Rick Halvorson

Organization Development Committee:

- Scott Hovde, Chair
- Les Amb
- Gary Nysveen
- Greg Krieger
- David Johnson

Business Assistance Committee:

- Ben Hershey, Chair
- Paul Geray
- Rick Halvorson
- David Johnson
- Scott Hovde

Marketing Committee:

- Jami Hovet, Chair
- Paul Geray
- Roxanne Phipps
- Gary Nysveen

Nominating Committee:

- Roxanne Phipps, Chair
- Scott Hovde

Mileage for board members

Mileage for board members is included in the TCEDC bylaws but was suspended for 2018. Hershey explained this originally was established as an incentive. Eblen moved to reinstate mileage for board members, as stated in the bylaws, seconded by Hovde. Motion carried.

Recommendation on repayment of \$10,000 to reserve

Based on the 2018 surplus, Murphy requested that TCEDC move \$10,000 to the reserve fund, as was included in the 2018 budget. Nysveen moved to transfer \$10,000 from the operating fund to the reserve fund, seconded by Geray. Motion carried. A. Short will work on the transfer after the signature cards are updated to include newly elected Treasurer Hovde.

Partners in Marketing grant

Murphy said TCEDC received a \$16,800 Partners in Marketing grant and will seek the assistance of other local EDCs to come up with the matching portion. The grant will be used to create videos and advertisements to entice former Traill County residents to return.

Young Professionals funds

The Young Professionals groups have disbanded but still have money in their bank accounts (approximately \$2,000 total). The groups have suggested turning the money over to Traill United Group to use for business development training opportunities.

Housing report

Murphy will send the former housing study to the board so the board can see how housing stats are tracking. A. Short will send the tables of housing stats from 2018. Board members questioned how TCEDC can get more information, such as how housing sits relative to business development and whether we can get the number of properties sold in the last year. Murphy will look into this.

Community updates

Hovet – Mayville State spring enrollment numbers aren't official but look to be up 6 percent over last spring. The university recently received the results of an economic impact survey, which Hovet will send. The legislative session kicked off and higher ed is facing possible cuts. About 25 bills had been introduced thus far that could impact higher ed.

Nysveen – Hillsboro City Commission President Terry Sando is interested in electric-car charging stations in the city.

Geray – Hillsboro's Ohnstad Twichell office is undergoing some changes and adding jobs to its location. The Hillsboro Business Association is seeking new members and looking at creating a business directory. A legislative forum is planned in Hillsboro on Saturday. They city is looking at autonomous bus grants. Jordahl Custom Homes has two lots for sale in town, the Hillsboro Body Shop is expanding and Olson Tax Service is back in Hillsboro.

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Eblen – Road and bridge discussions are ongoing with the county commission. The sheriff's department is struggling to find dispatchers. The social services departments for Traill and Steele counties have combined to form Agassiz Valley Social Services.

Halvorson – Galesburg is pretty quiet; issues with the city council have been straightened out.

Phipps – The Hatton Eielson School construction project continues and the city council still is working on the street situation. Hovet mentioned to Phipps that she'd heard Heggy's was looking to rent out space in their new building.

Hovde – Attended a bankers meeting at the UND Center for Innovation, working in conjunction with the Small Business Development Center and Bank of North Dakota. Brandon Baumbach, Business Development Manager with Grand Forks Region Economic Development, gave a shout-out to TCEDC during the session.

Johnson – Construction continues in the old Dairy Queen and Pizza Hut buildings. Rumor has it Subway is relocating to the old DQ building. The Shopko closure continues to be a hot topic of conversation. People would like it to stay open but Shopko appears to be in full-on liquidation mode. Murphy mentioned that the closure results in the loss of five full-time and 17 part-time positions.

Hershey – A firing range west of town is being set up and used by Valley Sportsmans Club, and is authorized by the N.D. Department of Natural Resources. The Cenex store in town is still open, although its future has been in question.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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