

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
February 21, 2019
6:40 p.m. The Goose River Bank – Mayville, N.D.

The meeting was preceded by a 5:45 p.m. visit to Back Alley Coffee in Mayville.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Chairman Hershey.

Additions to Agenda

None.

Secretary's Report

Hovet moved to accept the Jan. 17, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Halvorson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Krieger moved to accept the January 2019 treasurer's report, seconded by Geray. Motion carried.

Halvorson moved to approve payment of checks as submitted, Eblen seconded. Motion carried.

The board also reviewed the to-date tax collections. Krieger noted the total shortfall cell didn't include the 2019 amount, which Short said she would fix.

Nysveen arrived at 6:49 p.m.

Executive Director's Report

Murphy thanked Nysveen and Hovet for their assistance during the Career Expo & Job Fair and noted that he also met with employers that day regarding their needs. He's had multiple discussions with area businesses looking to expand or set up shop in Traill County, with workforce issues dominating some of those conversations.

He's also participated in several EDND calls regarding programs and incentives and has had ongoing discussions with regard to the Shopko closure. With the company declaring bankruptcy and closing all but three North Dakota locations, those conversations appear to be a dead end. The MayPort EDC currently is compiling suggestions as far as what kind of operation people would like to see there.



Murphy requested feedback on a Business Bankers and Builders seminar that he's planning for April 4 in Hillsboro. In what Murphy hopes to be more of a mixer than a seminar, he's trying to pull together representatives from area banks, the Bank of North Dakota, Commerce, Dakota Business Lending, etc. and get them in a room together with contractors to discuss development options in Trails County and the programs and incentives that could help fund them. Murphy specifically was looking for input as to whether to include only local contractors or a variety of contractors, including bigger names from Fargo and Grand Forks. Nysveen said that as a former contractor, he appreciated having the opportunity to bid on all sizes of projects but also understood that some were outside of his scope. Johnson also suggested that this might be a networking opportunity for contractors looking for local subcontractors. Consensus was to include as many contractors as possible.

Murphy also gave a short update on the natural gas project and said he's been receiving a lot of interest and good feedback on the project. Dakota Natural Gas met with Trails County commissioners earlier in the month and Hovet said Mayville State also met with them and although the university wouldn't be able to make a full switch, it would be more feasible for them to go to interruptible service. Mayville State is invested and would like to see natural gas come to the county.

Murphy explained some of the marketing and promotion activities the office had been involved in, including ramping up on the Come Home to Trails marketing campaign, as well as various quality of life projects, including helping with the Marketplace for Kids program.

Career Expo and Job Fair update

Murphy recapped the Jan. 23 Career Expo & Job Fair and said TCEDC received great feedback, and it was good to see that some employees were hired on the spot. Short also noted all participants who sent back their event surveys indicated they would participate again. Murphy said there weren't as many adults at the event as he'd hoped; board members asked whether moving the event to a weekend or weeknight might help encourage attendance.

Dakota Natural Gas

See Executive Director's Report.

Community Pulse survey

Hershey requested that board members review Murphy's email and come up with questions that are relevant to their areas. The March board meeting will include some group work on the survey.

Partners in Marketing update

Murphy and Short are working with AE2S to identify possible evangelists.

Executive Committee

Eblen spoke with Amb and Amb will be included on the Executive Committee.

Jim annual review timing/process

Hershey will send an email to the Executive Committee about this.

Annual report review

Murphy and Short presented a draft of the 2018 annual report. Hershey requested that feedback be sent by end of day Monday, Feb. 25 so that Short can send the files to print on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Bankers and Builders

See Executive Director's Report.

Insurance

Hershey mentioned that TCEDC's insurance is up for renewal in the coming months. Because the amounts are set by the State Fire and Tornado Fund and the N.D. Insurance Reserve Fund, the policies aren't really biddable because the amounts always will be the same.

Community updates

Hovet – Crossover starts tomorrow for the N.D. Legislature. The Mayville State budget was approved by the House, which also removed the 5 percent budget cut recommended by the governor. She's hoping this holds through in the Senate, as well. It's been at least three years since the last cost-of-living increases for staff salaries. Hovet says she's happy with where things are standing from a legislative standpoint. Both the men's and women's basketball teams are going to the Final Four. The university has interviewed two candidates for head football coach. Spring break is coming soon. Hovet said faculty members are working toward ensuring students left on campus are fed that week while dining services is closed.

Geray – Hillsboro is working on getting filling up or removing empty storefronts. There's continued talk about the autonomous bus project.

Eblen – No update.

Krieger – Townships are seeing high snow-removal expenses.

Hovde – A new commodity broker has taken up business in the former Portland grocery store.

Johnson – Mayville State's Glitz & Glam event was success. The first-time event raised nearly \$40,000 for the athletics department, alumni association and foundation. The Mayville Fire Department has an upcoming event that coincides with St. Patrick's Day. Johnson says it's a pretty important cause to support.

Halvorson – There's another house for sale and he's trying to get some information about it. He said houses haven't been staying on the market for long in Galesburg.

Hershey – Buxton Family Fun Day is set for June 29. The Buxton Fire Department recently purchased new battery-operated Jaws of Life and attachments, thanks in part to donations from American Crystal Sugar, Central Valley Bean and others. The department used the new equipment this morning. The new Sportsman's Club president is trying to improve the gun range west of Buxton and is looking at a BB gun shoot involving. They might be looking for a grant.

Trail County EDC – February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

There recently was a house fire in Reynolds and a benefit is set for March 12 in Reynolds. Farmers Union Oil is seeking a general manager.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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