

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
April 15, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
LEP Community Room, Hillsboro, and Zoom audio conference call

The meeting was preceded by a 6 p.m. socially distanced tour of The Clubhouse in Hillsboro.

Present: Board members: Gary Nysveen, Sarah Lovas, Roxanne Phipps, Brian Van Horn, Cassie Braaten, Kurt Elliott, Scott Hovde, Jami Hovet and David Knudsvig. Also attending: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Project Coordinator, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner and Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Nysveen.

Secretary’s report

Elliott moved to accept the March 25, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Hovde. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report/approve checks

Short said she and Murphy met with Hovde regarding a more structured and consistent way of calculating and tracking interest in client loans and tracking actual balances due rather than approved loan amount totals in the current receivables. The Customer Balance Summary report is updated to reflect those changes. She also noticed an error on the treasurer’s report regarding one of the deposits listed as going into the reserve account rather than the general fund; the actual check was deposited into the correct account and Short will make the adjustment in QuickBooks.

Lovas moved to receive and file the report with the correction as noted, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried.

The list of checks for approval includes the 2021 interest buydown installment for 1881 Extraction Co. Phipps moved to approve checks, seconded by Lovas. Motion carried.

Executive Director’s report

Office staff has been spending a lot of time on the career expo/job fair, which started Monday with the schools. Murphy said more information would be available at the next meeting and TCEDC has a postmortem scheduled with the software company to provide feedback. Five schools were slated to participate Monday, with Finley-Sharon looking at the materials on Tuesday. Murphy said he was hoping for 20 exhibitors and had 9 or 10; the virtual format was what had to be done because of COVID and it was an experiment, and staffers are undecided whether to use that format again.



Murphy said he talked with a group that places disabled workers in roles that was looking at opportunities with Trall County businesses. The TCEDC staff has several child care-related discussions in regard to various areas in the county and talked to out-of-state investors about commercial and multi-family housing properties in Hillsboro and Mayville.

Murphy and Short spent time providing input to state legislators regarding Mayville State’s capital project request and also asked for lobbying assistance from EDND. Murphy provided information to the Grand Forks Herald regarding current projects in Trall County and would love to help plan a grand opening/ribbon-cutting for Dakota Natural Gas. He’s working on planning a site visit for a potential company in Mayville for next month.

Knudsvig inquired about the possibility of doing more marketing for housing and amenities for the communities in the Central Valley School District. Murphy noted that the original set of “Come Home to Trall” videos was partially funded by the city EDCs in the county and offered to set up a meeting with himself, Short, Knudsvig and AE2S to discuss options and costs for creating content for Buxton and Reynolds.

Beautification and child care mini-grant update

Murphy said the office had received 10 mini-grant applications thus far. The deadline is May 14 and the marketing committee will act on the requests prior to the May 20 board meeting.

Wrapup on career expo to date

Murphy will provide more info at the May meeting.

Telephone upgrades

Murphy requested approval to replace the conference room and desk phones in the TCEDC office because the phones have severe audio quality issues and “are so old the serial number is 1. Knudsvig moved to allow Murphy and Short to spend up to \$400 on a new phone system, seconded by Lovas. Motion carried.

Next year’s budget

Murphy said that Trall County Auditor Glenda Haugen will have budget guidelines available next month regarding the timing of budget requests, and that the executive committee might need to discuss a version of the preliminary budget before it’s submitted to Haugen.

Community updates

Hovde – Portland Liquor Store is serving food for lunch and his wife say it’s great. Natural gas work is moving forward in Mayville.

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Phipps – Hatton’s citywide rummage sale is May 7-8, with citywide cleanup the following weekend. Some lots are for sale adjacent to Heggy’s but she’s not sure if they’re residential or commercial. Hatton Eielson School received a call from Dakota Natural Gas, which is doing some initial inquiries into the potential for service to Hatton.

Braaten – La Cantina is no longer open for lunch. Mayville’s citywide rummage sale is May 20-22, with Summerfest scheduled for June 24-26. A big car show will be in Mayville that same weekend. The Mayville golf course is open. The beautification grant application window for MPEDC closed and the full budget will be used.

Van Horn – Mayville State’s Child Development Program has several open positions. Hiring is challenging because the HeadStart requirements mean workers need to have certain qualifications. The Comets volleyball program qualified for the national tournament for first time in university history. The legislative session is nearing its end; Van Horn said he’s “cautiously optimistic” about approval of the capital request for the natural gas boiler conversion and thanked everyone in the room who helped. “Small Town Big Deal,” a nationally syndicated TV show, is coming to Mayville. Sept. 16-19. The show will highlight the quality of life in Traill County.

Elliott – Nothing to report from Clifford and Galesburg. County-wise, there are two job openings: Deputy auditor and deputy clerk of court. The county commission approved getting estimates on the installation of a natural gas line to the courthouse.

Lovas – Signed up for natural gas service at her house today. Our Savior’s Lutheran Church is running a summer preschool program out of the parsonage. There seem to be a lot of job openings in the area and she’s curious to know what the labor shortage is right now. Commodity markets are up.

Hovet – Natural gas work is commencing near some of the farmsteads. Dakota Natural Gas is open to inquiries if people along the line are interested in signing up. They’ll provide cost estimates. She also inquired how this will impact the area’s propane businesses.

Knudsvig – It’s great to be getting some moisture in the area. Most of the township roads been bladed. It’s looking to be a good year for commodities.

Nysveen – Hillsboro’s Stars & Stripes flag project is up to about 450 flags so far this year. HBA is finalizing the plans for Hillsboro Days. The Hillsboro School District is looking for land for a possible expansion down the road. HBA’s annual pancake breakfast is Saturday. The Hillsboro City Commission approved \$50,000 to research possible pool repairs.

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Lovas moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Van Horn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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