

Minutes of Meeting
Traill County Economic Development Commission
May 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
LEP Community Room, Hillsboro, and Zoom audio conference call

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Nysveen.

Introductions: Murphy introduced Wilson, the mayor of Galesburg, who is interested in joining the board as the Galesburg rep.

Secretary's report

Phipps moved to accept the April 15, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report/approve checks

Short noted that one of the CDs was up for renewal; Murphy met with Bob Hebl at Goose River Bank and the renewal rate was as good as it was going to be considering the low interest rates right now. She said the phone purchase approved at the April meeting came in under budget at approximately \$250. Short also asked board members to consider using direct deposit for their mileage checks to lessen the number of printed checks issued by the office.

Hershey moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried.

The list of checks for approval included an AE2S billing from the 2020 campaign. Short also noted continuing issues with WEX, which recently took over Discovery Benefits. Hershey moved to approve checks, seconded by Lovas. Motion carried.

Executive Director's report

Murphy reported on the stats from the virtual job fair and said he prefers the in-person format to the virtual format. The office awarded a few primary sector training grants that contributed to about \$170,000 in training and equipment to improve efficiencies; one of the companies wasn't previously a primary sector company, so that will have a long-term benefit.

Murphy he has been working on helping with housing expansion and marketing ideas for various cities in the county. The office is in the planning stages for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Dakota Natural Gas. Staffers and some board members took part in a site visit in Mayville for a company looking to start up and, Murphy and Short met with the N.D. Trade Office and signed on as part



of the group's RAMP program, which will bring additional exposure to Trail County. They also talked to U.S. Commercial Services about how the organization can help Trail businesses.

Staffers worked with AE2S and a board member on potential expansion of the "Come Home to Trail" videos and also sent the first monthly newsletter. They've also been working on assisting with child care issues and questions in Buxton and Hatton.

Beautification and child care mini-grant update

Van Horn said the marketing committee met beforehand to review and award mini-grants for child care and beautification projects. All but one of the 25 grant requests met the project criteria but would require an additional \$2,198.13 to contribute toward nearly \$250,000 worth of projects.

Van Horn moved to approve the additional \$2,200.00 (rounded up) in reimbursement grants, seconded by Elliott. Motion carried. Murphy will contact award-winners and will send a list of grant winners to the press with an embargo until after he can contact the applicants. Hershey also requested before and after photos of the projects for marketing purposes.

Housing project update

Murphy said Riverwalk is proceeding at a rapid pace. Nysveen said the infrastructure bids came in only 4 percent over projections despite the increase in construction costs. Murphy said the last he heard, developers were hoping to see dirt turn by the end of June. Braaten said that the number of lots for phase two of Riverwood hasn't yet been determined and there are still 13 lots left in original phase, but they're not the most desirable lots and people are waiting on larger lots in phase two. Murphy said it sounds like Hatton is getting ready to turn dirt in Bernie's Addition.

Virtual Career Fair update

Murphy provided the numbers from the initial day of the virtual career fair but hasn't received numbers since. Some participants were pleased but Murphy said his hopes weren't met by the event and he'd prefer to do just the in-person option next year.

Natural gas update – next phase and ribbon cutting

Murphy said a press release is included in the packet. Portland is probably a go for 2022 and the company has starting filing for permits. DNG is still talking with Hatton and potentially looking at other areas, as well.

Annual report format

Murphy and Short asked if they should still do the printed version of the annual report or if an online-only option would suffice – especially because Census statistics won't be in until later in the year. Nysveen said he still preferred to have some sort of annual report but the printed

version wasn't necessary. Hershey said he still liked having Murphy do the presentations at the local meetings.

Move June meeting to the 24th and preapprove any necessary checks

Murphy and Short will be at the EDND summer conference the week of the next meeting so they asked to move the meeting to the evening of June 24 and for preapproval of any necessary checks – which Short said should be just the Blue Cross/Blue Shield check. No approval motion was needed because this is a preapproved expense.

Builders social timing from board

Murphy will have more info about this at another time but he and Short are looking at planning a community showcase for area builders to explain land options, incentives, new developments, etc. They're trying to figure out the best time of year for the builders (which sounds like winter).

Patrick Bertagnolli presentation

Murphy would like the board to consider bringing in Patrick Bertagnolli, a speaker from Watford City, who has a lot of workforce recruitment-oriented information that might be valuable for local employers. He and Short have seen Bertagnolli speak on multiple occasions and would like to bring him in later this summer or early this fall (he charges mileage but no speaking fee).

Executive Committee meeting for proposed budget

Murphy will set up a meeting for the Executive Committee to meet before June 4 to discuss the preliminary 2022 budget. May 27 at 5 p.m. seems to be the best option.

Community updates

Elliott – County wise, working on bridge issues. New bridges are coming along nicely and ahead of schedule. The commission is starting its annual budget stuff.

Knudsvig – Township roads are doing well. Central Valley hired a new principal for the upcoming school year.

Hershey – Buxton finished paving its city streets, so about 95 percent of the streets are paved now. The community is hosting a hamburger/hot dog feed June 14 at the city park to raise funds for a new flagpole which also is a memorial as well for Gene Rosholt. BIG Fun Day is set for July 10. One new lot is ready to be built on.

Braaten – Mayville-Portland has a communitywide rummage sale this weekend with approximately two dozen sales scheduled. Summerfest is planned starting June 23. Art in the park starts in June and the farmers market is starting up again.

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Van Horn – Mayville State’s graduation was held Saturday with a very large turnout. Masks on campus will be optional starting May 24. Thanks to the help from local legislators and people in the room, Mayville State’s \$1.6 million capital request for natural gas boilers was approved by the legislature.

Wilson – Galesburg will be holding park fundraiser in September and another pork butt competition. They’re looking for volunteers to judge this year. The beautification project for the park is ongoing.

Phipps – School’s out for summer as of today. The Fun Pianos fundraiser to help the community foundation is this weekend. Not sure if the Hatton Men’s Club is moving forward with its usual July 4 events but assuming so.

Hovet – Listened in on the North Dakota infrastructure seminar and gave kudos to Larry Mueller, who was a speaker on aviation. He gave a nice shout-out to the county’s and area’s support.

Lovas – Crop-planting is going a lot better this year. Commodity prices are up and the brewery is coming along. Hillsboro Days is coming up June 16-20. Shining Lights day care is being held at the OSLC parsonage – supposedly for summer only.

Gary – The Sundae Brew project is back on the table. The Evanses bought Uniquely Yours and are opening a shop for ice cream, coffee and baked goods. The brewery is adding a kitchen now. Ten new hangars are being built at the Hillsboro airport and already are rented out. Hillsboro is looking for new city commissioner because Shawn Skager is moving. Very new. A new construction company opened in the in old Schwan’s building. The city commission is trying to live-stream its meetings on YourLiveEvent. Jordahl’s rental units are all rented out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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