

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Trail County Economic Development Commission**  
**April 21, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**TCEDC Conference Room/Zoom Video Conference Call**

**Present:** Board members: Dave Knudsvig, Cassie Braaten, Roxanne Phipps, Dustin Olson, Ben Hershey, Gary Nysveen, Larry Young, Dr. Brian Van Horn, Marshall Erickson. Also present: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director and Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune.

The meeting was preceded by a 6 p.m. tour of Goose River Brewing in Hillsboro.

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

**Secretary’s report**

Van Horn moved to accept the March 17, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Knudsvig. Motion carried.

Young moved to accept the March 30-31, 2022 email minutes, seconded by Phipps. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s report/approve checks**

TCEDC processed the direct loan check for the Hillsboro Café, as well as a 2021 beautification mini-grant payment to Sundae Brew. Short noticed that there was a deposit from Traill United Group for a portion of the job fair expenses. She said the office still was awaiting a final amount from BND for the Goose River Investments Flex PACE buydown check. Olson moved to receive and approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Braaten. Motion carried.

Among the checks to approve were a Flex PACE buydown installment for 1881 Extraction and a check to Traill United Group for an APUC fiscal agent fee. Knudsvig moved to approve checks, seconded by Hershey. Motion carried.

**Executive Director’s report**

Murphy said child care issues continue across the county and it’s “an ever-present specter.” There have been no applicants for the child care grants thus far and workforce seems to be at the core of the problem because of the pay scales for child care workers. Murphy urged the board to leave the grant program open; Child Care Aware said there might be another in-home day care opening in Hillsboro, although Murphy said that’s a “grain of sand on a beach of need.” Van Horn reiterated the problems with finding workforce, even when MSU CDP pays state benefits – mostly because of the qualifications required for CDP workers.



TCEDC has been participating in discussions about the regional workforce grant program, which uses ARPA funds freed up by the state. The region is supposed to come up with one overarching idea for the region's allotment of \$4 million. Murphy noted that Cass County tends to run over the smaller counties "like a steamroller."

Murphy noted interest in Hatton starting a Renaissance Zone. Board members reinforced how helpful the program has been in other communities. He also talked to a potential buyer for the Dakota Heritage Bank building in Hillsboro. He and Short have been putting in a lot of time in site selection work for both phases 1 and 2 of the Agassiz Sustainables project.

Murphy and Short presented a grant application in Carrington, which resulted in a \$31,250 grant for lights at Olsen Softball Complex in Hillsboro. They're also helping the Provosts with a May 7 grand opening at the Hillsboro Café, and spoke to someone from Canada working with the NHL who was interested in the hockey program and facilities in Mayville.

Murphy also noted that he sat on the county's ARPA committee and fought "tooth and nail" for some of the projects on the list that he thought should have been approved but weren't.

#### **April Lunch & Learn**

Murphy said the speaker the office wanted for April can't do an event right now and he and Short are exploring other options.

#### **Website updates**

Murphy and Short are working with Absolute to help streamline some of the maintenance work on the site that require a lot of duplication of effort.

#### **Beautification mini-grants**

The staff has had many inquiries but not many applications yet.

#### **Childcare**

Murphy referenced his comments earlier. Phipps noted that Hatton will have both before- and after-school programming next year. Van Horn said that even though there's a shortage of openings CDP sometimes has trouble filling spots. The shortage of spots isn't necessarily a constant issue but when it is an issue, it's a huge issue.

#### **Housing**

A builder in Hillsboro is requesting a zoning change to put up a 24-unit apartment building in Riverwalk. In Mayville, Jordahl is going to get going as soon as they can. The office continues to receive many housing inquiries – both for building and renting.

**Game of Life**

Hillsboro High School is hosting a “Game of Life” program similar to the Reality Check program done earlier in the year at Central Valley. Teacher Shelby Strand is looking for volunteers to help.

**Mayville barber shop**

Young said that Mayville’s barber passed away unexpectedly a few weeks ago, and his business was an important service in the community. No one is sure yet what will happen with the business or building but MayPort EDC is aware of the situation and a few people have talked to someone in Grand Forks who might be interested in helping or taking over.

**Community updates**

Hershey – Buxton is talking about using some of its ARPA funds for a lift station. They’re still working on grants for the Buxton siren project. Central Valley is doing mock interviews for students next week.

Olson – Not much going on in Portland; he hasn’t poked his head out of the office much during tax season.

Erickson – No update for Clifford.

Braaten – Brock Brend started work on his building. Brad Richter is working on the old MayPort Insurance building and it looks really nice. Soholt Bakery continues to be busy.

Knudsvig – Roads are firming up and townships are doing pretty well. There hasn’t been much of any flooding or extra costs related to that.

Young – Trall County is supposed to get about \$4.8 million in Prairie Dog funding and the cities each should receive money, as well.

Van Horn – MSU is hosting the Shrine Bowl in June and it’s a big deal. Tables de Jour is being held this Saturday and commencement will be May 14. More students are on-campus now than online and the campus is running out of student housing. MSU has searches ongoing for three major positions: athletic director and two vice presidents. Van Horn lost his father about a month prior and appreciated TCEDC’s support.

Phipps – Hatton is looking at getting rid of its water tower and looking into other ways of getting rural water into town. The Thunder Robotics team is participating in an international tournament down south.

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Nysveen – Some Hillsboro residents have started Team GrowHillsboro, which is intended to bring together representatives from different organizations to meet quarterly and work cooperatively. About 12 groups were represented at the first meeting. Jordahl’s second set of townhomes hopefully will be rentable by June and they’re supposedly already spoken for. The Hillsboro Café was a little overwhelmed at first but things are improving. The Hillsboro Business Association is buying a tent. Six residential lots have been sold in Riverwalk. HBA is purchasing new Christmas decorations for the streetlight poles. The Stars & Stripes project is getting going for 2022. The city is trying to obtain a lease for the railroad park that they’ve been using and maintaining since 1928.

Van Horn moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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