

Minutes of Meeting
Trail County Economic Development Commission
August 18, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
TCEDC Conference Room, Hillsboro, N.D./Zoom Video Conference Call

Present: Board members: Gary Nysveen, Dustin Olson, Roxanne Phipps, Cassie Braaten, Marshall Erickson, Larry Young, Craig Moen and Dr. Brian Van Horn. Also present: Jim Murphy – Executive Director, Alyssa Short – Deputy Director, Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner and Jim Johnson – Traill County Tribune.

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

Secretary’s report

Phipps moved to accept the July 26, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Young. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report/approve checks

Short said last month’s \$300 NDEMA check was returned uncashed due to a credit on TCEDC’s account from last year’s canceled conference. TCEDC paid out some beautification and child care grants, and IEDC online course registrations. There was a stop put on the June Visa check, which was apparently lost, so TCEDC incurred some interest and finance charges. Olson moved to receive and approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Erickson. Motion carried.

The checks included the Visa payment, reissued with associated fees. Van Horn moved to approve checks with one signer, seconded by Young. Motion carried.

Executive director’s report

Murphy said he and Short continued their follow-up work with Degelman Industries and the North Dakota Department of Commerce incentives. The company is starting to flatten ground behind the facility. They also had meetings with a Hillsboro child care provider about an outstanding grant request and assisted Goose River Brewing with some Renaissance Zone-related paperwork. They heard from a Portland business that’s been ramping up its hiring efforts and it sounds they’ve made some headway.

The North Dakota Livestock Alliance/A1 Development Group request was tabled at a recent county commission meeting, pending the state’s attorney’s review. Murphy and Short touched base with a Hillsboro building owner on a remodeling project, and assisted Jordahl Custom Homes with some Xcel-related problems in Mayville. They met with stakeholders working on a placemaking grant for the city of Hillsboro and discussed a potential hospitality business with a landowner in Hillsboro’s Riverwalk Addition. They also met with a Mayville business regarding Renaissance Zone and Flex PACE options.



Murphy had an interview with KRJB about upcoming events and contacted USDA about help with the Buxton Fire Department building renovations. Most of the county is above the necessary income limits for funding assistance.

Murphy and Short attended Rep. Armstrong's talk at the brewery in Hillsboro and Mayville State's state of the university address. They did a lot of work on the Sept. 7 Rikka Brandon event and heard that the natural gas buildout in Portland is almost done.

Explorer's Academy childcare grant request

Tabled while awaiting additional info from applicant.

The Recruiting Blueprint event

Murphy said registrations were open, although there's no cost. Murphy noted that Rikka Brandon is very well respected in her field and this is a new type of hiring world. Short asked board members to encourage HR or other hiring people at their companies to attend.

Mayors' social/summit recap

Murphy said the event went well and the venue (Edson and Margaret Larson Alumni Center at Mayville State) was perfect. There was socialization, legislators got input from communities and at least a few mayors have already connected on a project.

Health insurance increase

Short said that TCEDC's health insurance increase would be higher than that of the county for 2023. She said she had sticker shock at the 16.86 percent increase, but she and Murphy had been told to budget around 18, so as long as the budget is approved, TCEDC can handle the increase.

Board terms – 2023

Nysveen and Phipps are terming out at the end of 2022 and will be thinking of possible board reps to cover their areas. Murphy will ask Ben Hershey to serve as past president because he'll be the most recent past president on the board. Short asked anyone interested in serving in a leadership role for next year to contact Hershey and David Knudsvig, who do the nominating.

Update on Portland natural gas installation

Dakota Natural Gas recently sent a press release that they're wrapping up the Portland installation and are conducting feasibility studies on Hatton.

ND Livestock Alliance Pilot project

Murphy explained the NDLA pilot project that was presented to the county commission. NDLA's end game is to grow livestock and other ag-related businesses in the state. He explained the type of data that's compiled and why it's important to TCEDC, and Short added that the pilot

project will be completed at no cost (it would cost in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 to commission this kind of study otherwise). Murphy will attend the next county commission meeting, when the legal review hopefully is complete.

Community updates

- Olson – Natural gas installation in Portland. A house was moved into the new development (Heskin Meadows) the other day.
- Moen – Dirt is moving in Hillsboro’s Riverwalk Addition. Folks are busy with harvest.
- Phipps – The city of Hatton has indicated that the water tower has to go and they’re working with the East Central Water Users District. School started yesterday. A Hatton student is in the hospital after a bad accident and fundraisers are planned.
- Young – FEMA signed off on paperwork – there was a lot of work related to the water. The county is getting the budget finalized and the auditor is preparing to send pre-tax statements (a source of frustration for many). Prairie Dog Funding still hasn’t come in.
- Erickson – Street construction continues in Mayville.
- Van Horn – Busy time of year for MSU. Fall classes start next week. The state of the university address was held Wednesday, and two new VPs have started work. The higher ed committee meets on MSU’s campus Sept. 7 and will tour Old Main. The university is focused on trying to show the impact of what the students do in the region and state – for example, the Traill County summer road crew was mostly MSU students. MSU is requesting \$50 million from the state legislature to renovate Old Main; it’s a big ask but still cheaper than building a new facility, and preserves the existing architecture.
- Braaten – Tiny Town had its open house today in Mayville and the day care opens Monday. They’re also doing some before- and after-school care. The Jordahl project is coming along. The Delchar is expanding its lobby and moving its bathrooms to the main floor.
- Nysveen – Goose River Brewing’s kitchen is open. HEDC, HBA and the city of Hillsboro are sponsoring an H-CV football game Aug. 26 and hosting a sort of carnival with trivia, games, events, prizes and a welcome to new residents.

Young moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Officer (printed name & office) Signature Date

Recording Secretary (printed name) Signature Date