

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Trail County Economic Development Commission**  
**November 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**TCEDC Conference Room – Hillsboro, N.D./Conference call via Zoom**

The meeting was preceded by a 6:15 p.m. tour of Walden Veterinary Clinic in Hillsboro.

**Present:** Board members: Jami Hovet, Cassie Braaten, Marshall Erickson, Vicky Grothmann, Mark Duncan and Ben Hershey. Also present: Jim Murphy – TCEDC Executive Director, Alyssa Short – TCEDC Deputy Director and Cole Short – Hillsboro Banner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Board Chair Hovet. The board did not have quorum.

**Executive Director's report**

Murphy thanked everyone who showed up for the tour of Walden Veterinary Clinic. He said it was a \$17,000 investment that helped save the business a lot of money, and it's a business that brings in clients from out of town. He and Short have worked on the following activities the past month, among many others:

- Sent IGNITE info to employers to post job openings.
- Met with the Buxton Fire Department about possible solutions for their facility and the need to stress multiuse.
- Had a few great meetings with land developers and a Realtor group out of Fargo to work on possible help for housing situations in all our communities. Hope to take advantage of efficiencies with developers.
- Researched USDA Rural Development RED LG loans, which unfortunately we can't use for multifamily housing.
- Had discussions with HEDC members about potential plans for expanding Hillsboro's single-family housing development.
- Spoke with Realtors about using LOIS for listing commercial land/properties.
- Spoke with Buxton city official about potential help for teardown on a property.
- Met with Agassiz Sustainables and two potential venture capital firms.
- Continued consultations with a Buxton business regarding upgrades and incentives.
- Met with a Hillsboro hospitality business about additional investors.
- Had a soft opening of the Hot on the Traill app.
- Assisted two Hillsboro business owners with grand opening plans in December.
- Helped raise funds for the drama club's equipment.
- Did a lot of work on the county website – there's still some heavy lifting to do.
- Served as a mentor at the DECA event in Fargo.



**Community Showcase, December 14, 2023**

The rescheduled date will work better – it gives communities more time to prepare, especially in light of the newly announced Rural Workforce Housing grants. Murphy and Short spoke with several communities about it, but there aren't many details available.

**Hot on the Trall campaign update**

Murphy gave a quick demo and said 18 businesses were signed up so far.

**Update on website conversion**

The TCEDC staff is putting in about 4-5 hours per week at this time.

**Timeline for employee reviews**

With the proposed schedule, Murphy and Short will submit their evaluations to the Executive Committee by EOD of Dec. 6, with Murphy's review slated for Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

**Officer nominations for 2024 board**

The board will need to vote on officers next month so officers are set for the January meeting.

**Next Move video for board members (time allowing)**

Jim will send the video if he's able to get a copy.

**Agenda addition: BA committee update**

Hershey said the Business Assistance committee met last Tuesday night to discuss potentially looking at the interest rates that TCEDC uses for its Flex PACE loans. The committee chose not to bring a decision to the board to adjust the interest rates for the buydowns, but rather to deal with the loans individually and make an assessment.

**Community updates**

- Erickson – Sip & Shop will be held Nov. 25 (Small Business Saturday) in Clifford from 9 a.m. to noon with free admission.
- Braaten – Christmas lights are going up in downtown Mayville. The MayPort Community Club is doing a raffle to help raise money for them. Winterfest is scheduled for Dec. 7-9 with a similar slate of activities as previous years. The college pool is open.
- Grothmann – Winter sports are starting at the schools. The Hillsboro Business Association is holding its two-day Christmas carnival Dec. 8-9. The Hillsboro Community Christmas choir has four people from Hatton who are driving over to participate.

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- Duncan – Hatton Eielson School students performed a nice Veterans Day program. Hatton’s City Council is grappling with the pool. Repairs could be up to \$100,000. Hatton also had a recent water main break.
- Hershey – The City of Buxton is still having frustrations with BNSF blocking the crossings in the city. The tax exemption for Central Valley Bean was approved. The Buxton Fire Department has turkey bingo coming up. Friday, Feb. 2 will be CV’s Reality Check program.
- Hovet – No news is good news.

Hovet will send out official business for an email vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 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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