

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 – 8:00 A.M.
Council Chambers (Second Floor), Virginia City Hall

Present: Rob Marwick, John Tourville, Michael Harvey, Julianne Paulsen, Jim Tieberg
Absent: Kim Culbert-Blaeser, Michael Ralston, Larry Cuffe

Also Present: Wendy Summers, Accounting Clerk; Kris Johnson, City Attorney

Jim Tieberg called the meeting to order.

I. Minutes Approval (September 4, 2014)

No Minutes from September Meeting were provided to the members prior to the meeting. September 4th Meeting Minutes to be reviewed and approved at the December 6, 2014 Meeting.

II. Finance Reports

Moved by Marwick and supported by Paulsen to approve the payment to the UMD Center for Economic Development in the amount of \$1,500, for the third quarter of 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Marwick and supported by Paulsen to approve the payment to Kennedy & Graven Chartered for Professional Services regarding the EDA Levy in the amount of \$188.50 and \$174.00. Motion carried.

Wendy Summers, Accounting Clerk, reviewed the proposed 2015 Budget.

Moved by Marwick and supported by Tourville to approve the proposed 2015 VEDA Budget which will include revenue from a Special Levy in the amount of \$64,074. Motion carried.

John Tourville stated that the Greater Minnesota Partnership Membership for VEDA will be renewing. The decision to renew the membership should be made at the December meeting.

The Committee discussed the USDA-RBEG Loan program that was set up for small business owners. There are questions regarding the usage of these funds, the application process and the underwriting parameters with the USDA. The Committee will ask Thomas Leech from USDA to attend the meeting to answer questions relating to this loan program. Further discussion arose on how VEDA can work to better assist small business in town whether it is financial support, technical assistance, or even to set them up with a mentorship with Jennifer Pontinen.

III. President's Report

Jim Tieberg expressed his appreciation for all of City Administrator; John Tourville's hard work and his accomplishments with Economic Development within the City of Virginia. He reported that there is positive movement with Polymet and Ziegler is making a substantial expansion on their business, all showing strength in the Mining Industry in our area.

IV. New Business

Jennifer Pontinen was unable to attend the meeting therefore they did not review the Quarterly report from the UMD Center for Economic Development (third quarter).

V. Old Business/Updates

1. VEEDA Update

- Rob Marwick reported that the appraisal on the 1402 building, discussions were being held with the current tenants whose lease will be up at the end of December. The current tenants have been given the option to purchase. If they do not move forward with the purchase they do want to have the lease updated to accommodate them with some flexibility in case the building is sold during the lease. If the building is sold, the IRRRB loan funds can be paid off and the funds could be used to develop other lots.

2. City Update

City Administrator Tourville provided a City update, as follows:

- AEOA/Range Mental Health-St. Louis County would like to purchase the lot where their proposed facility will be developed. The City plans to move forward in having this appraised and sold at Fair Market Value. Due to this land being purchased with CDBG funds, the money would then be redeployed into another project within the City.
- East Range Clinic Abatement and Demo begins November.
- VCCU has requested an additional \$150,000 in assistance from the City.
- Jim Glowaki has proposed a new development on Silver Lake that would be a Shell Build where the tenant will build out to suit their needs.
- Chris Ismil from IRRRB would like to attend the next VEDA meeting to gain knowledge of VEDA and the roles it plays.
- Utilities are in and walls are up at the new Ulland Brothers Site.
- Tritec will be expanding their business to manufacture boxes for production trucks. Fifty new employees are anticipated.
- Funds were secured to move forward with Phase One to take out the East half of the hill at Joy Global.
- The City plans to move forward in obtaining a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant to have additional blighted buildings taken down.

VI. Information & Other – FYI

- Rob Marwick stated that the Thunderbird Mall was sold and there are leads for new stores
- Julianne Paulsen stated she would like VEDA discuss a marketing campaign to advertising housing, commercial properties and Economic Development in our communities.
- The VEDA website needs to be reviewed, updated and the developer W.A. Fischer needs to be contacted to fix the broken links on the site.

VII. Adjournment to next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 A.M.

Minutes by: Kris Johnson, Attorney's Office