

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017 – 8:00 A.M.
Council Chambers (Second Floor), Virginia City Hall

Present: Jorgensen, Bartovich, Smith, Guertin, Stone

Absent: Miskovich, Baranzelli

I. Minutes Approval (July 6, 2017)

Moved by Jorgensen, supported by Smith to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2017 VEDA meeting with the noted word changes. Motion Carried.

II. Finance Reports

1. Check Register-

2. **Moved by Jorgensen, supported by Stone to approve the payment of \$1,500 to the UMD Center for Economic Development Business Consulting. Motion Carried.**

Summers spoke with Mr. Paulsen regarding the past due loan. He said that they would be paying off their loan soon. Aszendrops is three months behind and it was suggested to send a letter to them regarding their past due status.

3. Budget Appropriation Report-

Budget reports were accepted and approved to file.

III. President's Report

IV. New Business

1. Dennis Yourczek, discussed implementing a relief fund for downtown businesses who suffer from vandalism. Yourczek is a member of Revive Virginia and their discussion entailed ways to improve the appearance of downtown Virginia and to provide help with vandalism. The Revive Virginia committee suggested Yourczek to attend the VEDA meeting to request the insurance money. Jorgensen noted that in the VEDA grant guidelines there is a 40% reimbursement for insurance claims. It does state pre-approval is needed before a VEDA grant would be given, but for vandalism occurrences it was suggested that pre-approval would not be required.

Moved by Jorgensen, supported by Stone to amend the VEDA grant guidelines *not* requiring pre-approval for insurance claims and to furnish a police report of the incident when requesting reimbursement. Motion Carried.

Discussion was held on a Duluth based organization that does allow memberships that contribute to a fund that helps in the payment of the deductibles for business. It was discussed by Revive to form a group and research insurance options. It was also suggested to approach the Laurentian Chamber in regards to the fund. If things do not work out with the Chamber then Revive Virginia should look into becoming an independent group that may be able to help with vandalism for business in this area.

Discussed loans available for business and what can make them more attractive to the business owner; interest free or low rates in order for them to upgrade their business.

2. Discuss 2018 VEDA Budget

Jorgensen suggested to the VEDA board the following 2018 budget numbers for consideration:

Grant \$30,866
Property Acquisition \$17,500
Other Services \$9,000
Architectural Services \$2,000
Insurance \$950

Moved by Jorgensen, supported by Bartovich to approve a preliminary budget for 2018 in the amount of \$60,316. Motion Carried

Small Cities Grant are available and Jorgensen suggested to mimic the guidelines for these grants since St. Louis County doesn't qualify because of the CDBG funding available. It was suggested to discuss the development of a commercial rehab program to secure grants. A meeting will be held on August 15, 2017 at 2 p.m. at City Hall.

Main Street Programs—the U of M study is being conducted on the main street program. A report will be done by planning students in the class who are pursuing a City Administration type of degree. A scope of work was received to tailor the needs to what Virginia would like to incorporate into the plan.

Guertin updated on the Main Street Development Program for the downtown business. There needs to be a director and an administrator in charge of the program can do to help develop the downtown/main street areas.

It was noted by Smith that all the programs are very good but we need to retain the business we have on the Main Street because if we lose them it will be harder to attract new business to relocate in the area. Smith also requested signage on the Hwy 53 area due to the closure of 2nd Avenue. The closing of the street has decreased the amount of retail traffic on Chestnut Street. Signage was requested to help with the detouring traffic to the downtown.

Bartovich left the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Stone noted that he would support the process for the Main Street Project but the challenge is going to be the implementation of the project, a meeting will be set up soon for a presentation on the program.

V. Old Business/Updates

VI. Information & Other – FYI

VII. Adjourned at 9: 29 a.m. to next meeting at 8:00 a.m. to September 7, 2017