

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.
Council Chambers (Second Floor), Virginia City Hall

Present: Jim Tieberg, Michael Miskovich, Julianne Paulsen, Dennis Jorgensen, John Tourville-5

Absent: Rob Marwick, Kim Culbert-Blaeser, Carl Baranzelli - 3

Also Present: Betsy Olivanti, UMD Center for Economic Development; Bernie Collins, Laurentian Chamber; Kris Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Wendy Summer, Accounting Clerk; Lois Roskoski, City Clerk

I. Minutes Approval (June 4, 2015)

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Tourville to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2015, meeting. Motion carried.

II. Finance Reports

Accounting Clerk Summers stated the insurance premium will be due in August, 2015. There were no checks issued in July.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Paulsen to amend the 2015 budget to reflect the reduction of the \$64,074 economic development levy that was not approved by the City. Motion carried. Note: \$2,000 will remain in expenditures to reflect the \$2,000 in revenue.

Accounting Clerk stated Aszendrops is behind in their payments for the Storefront Loan. City Administrator will review the issue with the City Attorney.

Accounting Clerk Summers stated the UMD Center for Economic Development has been paid by the City of Virginia for 2015 dues.

City Administrator Tourville stated the City Council seems favorable at this point to move forward with an EDA levy for 2016.

III. President's Report

Jim Tieberg reported on the following items:

- Thanked the City Administrator for his efforts in development the business on Silver Lake on Fourth Street North.
- Thanked Bernie Collins for including the information on the USDA loan in the Chamber newsletter.
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for Polymet will be complete in November, with a decision to be made in February, 2016.
- The new Ulland facility is impressive.
- Mt. Iron is moving forward with a new school building.

Bernie Collins, Laurentian Chamber, stated the steel has been ordered for the new bridge. Working with public relations guy from the business we are buying the steel. He also stated the votes for the noise walls along Highway 53 are expected mid-November.

IV. New Business

The committee reviewed the USDA R-BEG loan guidelines and made one revision: “ Change second paragraph “we” to “City staff” may also provide applicants with contact information to obtain technical assistance from other resources.

The revised loan guidelines will be reviewed by the City Council and approved by resolution, as required by the USDA.

Moved by Paulsen and supported by Jorgensen to approve the USDA R-BEG loan guidelines, as amended. Motion carried.

Betsy Olivanti, UMD Center for Economic Development, introduced herself and stated she is working with new entrepreneurs on business plans. She also helps existing business financially recover from hardship or expansion plans.

Councillor Jorgensen asked Kris Johnson to find how much of the financial information included in a loan application is public.

It was agreed that the Loan Committee would review the loan applications, prior to presenting them VEDA Board. It was suggested that new businesses requesting a loan give a presentation to the VEDA board.

Kris Johnson stated she is revamping the VEDA website and asked the members to review it and provide her with any information that they would like to include. Applications for loan programs are already on the VEDA website.

V. Old Business/Updates

Councillor Jorgensen stated VEEDA is considering the repair of the roof on an 18 year old building.

City Administrator Tourville providing the following update on City items:

- MN Senate Capital Investment Committee will be on their bonding tour on September 17, 2015.
- Waschke Auto Plaza is working on a temporary setup for the new dealership. The City has received grants from IRRRB and DEED to assist with the infrastructure.
- City Council approved a hotel feasibility study.

Councillor Jorgensen stated he has been working on a new fire station, Miners Memorial building renovations and a proposed cooperative facility with the State, County and City.

VI. Information & Other – FYI

VII. Adjournment to next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM.