

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Thursday, September 3, 2015 – 8:05 AM
Council Chambers (Second Floor), Virginia City Hall

Present: John Tourville, Julianne Paulsen, Jim Tieberg, Rob Marwick, Councilor Dennis Jorgensen, - 5

Also Present: Betsy Olivanti, UMD Center for Economic Development; Sherry Erickson, Finance Director - 3

Absent: Wendy Summers, Accounting Clerk; Lois Roskoski, City Clerk – 2

Public Guests:

I. Minutes Approval

President Jim Tieberg called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Moved by Tieberg and supported by Jorgensen to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2015, meeting with corrections.

Motion carried.

II. Finance Reports

No financials due to Wendy Summers, Accounting Clerk III being out on vacation. Committee requested that a report on the financials be distributed with an update on the Storefront Revolving Loan account balances, by next month's meeting.

III. President's Report

City Clerk Roskoski was on vacation, but President Tieberg wished her a happy retirement. Clerk Roskoski is retiring on September 11, 2015. Erickson gave an update on the Clerk position to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the USDA revolving loan program and the possible reasons why businesses are not considering the opportunity to finance at a low rate, with multiple options. One of the reasons is private data verses public information; many are not willing to disclose private data to the public. Next, the USDA loan program only funds up to 75% of the project and 100% for new

equipment, there is an additional need for gap financing, making it cumbersome for the business owner to seek funding.

IV. New Business/Updates

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Paulsen to approved the 2016 VEDA budget to include the Special Levy of \$64,595. Motion carried. (2016 Budget attached)

Julianne Paulsen proposed an idea of designating out \$10,000 of the Special levy for a downtown upgrade to storefronts by assisting store owners in the funding for awnings and tube lighting. Tourville stated that the strategic planning through the Community Foundation program that the City is having done could incorporate this idea. Julianne is to bring back feedback to the Committee on the interest if any, by the downtown store owners, to next month's meeting.

V. Old Business/Updates –

Tourville gave an update on the Hwy 53 project, \$12.5 million for the bridge, with \$5.5 million to affix the utilities. There is a housing need for the anticipated bridge workers for the next two years.

- Natural Harvest is pursuing relocation within the City, and plan on increasing their store size by two times the current size.
- Good potential for a new dental office to be located downtown.
- The Waschke project is projected to create fifteen to thirty new jobs.
- Anticipating a new restaurant coming soon.
- Comprehensive Plan and Hotel feasibility study are in the process.

Tourville left the meeting at 8:45 a.m. for another commitment.

Jorgensen informed the Committee that he would be attending the VEEDA meeting on September 10, 2015. Jorgensen brought up concerns about the 1402 building roof repair, which will cost approximately \$400,000 to replace. Currently, the plan is to do seam repair, costing about \$8,000-\$20,000, along with general maintenance and black topping.

Jorgensen also informed the Committee that the Council has agreed to do a predesign study, utilizing Five Bugles, for a future headquarters Fire Station and potential training center for the

Virginia Fire and Ambulance Department, incorporating the surrounding communities in the process. The current fire hall is over 100 years old and the structure on the building is questionable.

Jorgensen also gave a feasibility study report that he conducted regarding the possibility of a joint Public Works site with MN DOT on the north side of Highway 53. Jorgensen said the fuel costs for garbage hauling would outweigh the benefits for the site.

Betsy Olivanti reported that the slated Eco Summit for the Range is still in the planning stage. Betsy said she has a lot of clients right now that she is assisting. The Committee felt that she was a fabulous resource.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Marwick to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.