

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 – 8:00 A.M.
Council Chambers (Second Floor), Virginia City Hall

MINUTES

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

Also Present: Wendy Summers, Accounting Clerk; Lois Roskoski, City Clerk

President Tieberg called the meeting to order.

I. Minutes Approval (July 17, 2014)

President Tieberg recommended the following change to the July 17, 2014, minutes. “Road Machinery has been given the right of “first” refusal to acquire City property on the Inland haul road.”

Moved by Paulsen and supported by Cuffe to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2014, meeting, as amended. Motion carried.

II. Finance Reports

Wendy Summers, Accounting Clerk, reviewed the Schedule of Bills. Larry Cuffe requested that Jennifer Pontinen be invited to the next VEDA meeting to give an update on the services that are provided through the UMD Center for Economic Development.

Moved by Marwick and supported by Cuffe to approve the Schedule of Bills, as presented. Motion carried.

Accounting Clerk Summers requested permission to make transfers in September and October to cover the accounts payables and noted the VEDA savings account currently has a balance of \$4,800.

Moved by Marwick and supported by Cuffe to close the VEDA savings account at the Frandsen Bank and transfer the funds to the checking account. Motion carried.

Accounting Clerk Summers reviewed the Revolving Loan Fund, as of August 31, 2014, and reported all accounts are within one month of being current.

Accounting Clerk Summers stated the City has a designated fund for the \$100,000 USDA business loan. Larry Cuffe noted it is difficult to comply with the Federal program grant requirements.

III. President’s Report

IV. New Business

Larry Cuffe provided an update on the following items:

- The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6:30 P.M. on September 9, 2014, to discuss a special levy for VEDA and economic development. Mike Harvey asked if there is a list of projects that VEDA could review and what strategy is used stimulate economic growth. Larry Cuffe responded that VEDA provides support services for economic development. The special levy would generate \$64,000 for economic development purposes.
- City has received numerous complaints regarding the electrical boxes that were installed on Fourth Street North.

- Laborers Union has received approval from the City to construct a union hall next to Rotary Park on Fourth Street North.
- Carpenters Union will be constructing a new union hall next to the Laborers Union. The construction has been delayed because of soil corrections.
- The Gun Club vacated their building on Silver Lake on September 1, 2014, and the City will repurpose the building.
- Reviewed the list of buildings the City is moving forward with condemnation and demolition.
- Some public meetings have been held on the draft rental code and the City Council will continue to meet to discuss the proposed code in detail.

Julianne Paulsen asked if the City has a list of the buildings that are vacant. Larry Cuffe stated he will check with City staff to see if a list of vacant buildings is available.

Julianne Paulsen reminded the board that she has the concept drawings for the billboard located on Highway 169, just west of Mt. Iron.

Finance Director Erickson stated VEEDA will need to prepare a budget for the special levy.

V. Old Business/Updates

1. VEEDA Update.

Rob Marwick provided an update on VEEDA and stated one of the building is in the process of being appraised and may be sold, if approved by the board.

2. City Update.

Larry Cuffe reported on the following items:

- The New London Warehouse has closed.
- Kunnari's will be opening their new facility in the near future, which includes a restaurant, bakery, drive through coffee shop and farmers market.

Kim Culbert-Blaeser suggested that the former Hexion building be demolished to make the property more marketable.

Julianne Paulsen was referred to the City Engineering Department to discuss the stench at the 13th Street South lift station.

Jim Tieberg stated it appears the 2017 deadline to realign Highway 53 will not be met. It was noted that MnDOT has assigned the Highway 53 project to another project manager.

Mike Harvey will provide his ideas for economic development at a future meeting.

VI. Information & Other – FYI

Jim Tieberg stated Polymet continues to go through the environmental process and further stated Twin Metals recently laid some employees off.

VII. Adjournment to next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 A.M.