**Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**EDC Office Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**September 11, 2018**

**Present**: Collen Duflo, Cliff Fossitt, AJ Downey, Joe Villemure and Brian LeBoeuf (on phone), and John Waltman arriving at 4:30 p.m.

**Absent**: Mike Slaght, Jonathan Grubb, Michelle Clark.

**Others Present**: Tammy Rutledge EUPISD and Megan Webber from the DEQ

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by chairperson Duflo

**Public Hearing**:

During the Public close out hearing for Newberry Motors, Inc, there were no public comments made and no comments were submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

**CTE visit**

Tammy Rutledge is the CTE Administrator for the EUPISD (Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District). They tried to provide CTE for Tahquamenon Area Schools through the hospital but their staffing issues prevented that. A welder was hired to teach at the school but took a full-time job elsewhere. She was here to solicit ideas and see if we knew anyone qualified or employers that would be interested in partnering for CTE opportunities for our students. For an individual to qualify they must have 4,000 hours’ experience in their field in the last 10 years. Another option is for an organization to have students in their facility for trainings.

**Communication from Public**:

Megan Webber introduced herself and explained her role for DEQ and Brownfield Redevelopment boards.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the regular board meeting held on August 7,2018 were reviewed and approved as presented Motion made by Fossitt, seconded by Downey. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

The regular financial report and bills for August 2018 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Downey seconded by Villemure. All Ayes motion passed.

**Correspondence – None**

**Old Business-** EDC project update – nothing to report

**New Business**

**Member Updates -**Banks has a close date of 12/1 for now, still in discussion with buyer. Prison View party store will become a t-shirt shop no open date set. Co. Rd. 407 paving grant due June 2019, in progress. Falls Hotel back on the market.

**Chamber Newberryopoly –** Cost is $200 for a square, placement will be drawn. Motion by Fossitt seconded by LeBoeuf to spend $200 for the EDC to have a space on the Newberryopoly board. All Ayes – motion passed.

**Directors Report**

* No word on the health of our investor.
* MDOT required us to remove our sign from the corner of M123 & Hamilton lake rd. Now that 123 is a scenic byway we can’t have a sign unless we had a permit before 2014. We did not have a permit so the sign is down. It will be placed either by the road in front of the building or near the building.
* Brow was in to talk about the letter from the attorney. He told me they were going to use the site because of the fire. I informed him that we would need a plan for the site. He then called our attorney and said indicated he wanted to sell it back to us.
* The next step is underway.  I’ve notified Mr. Brow that he needs to respond to the complaint which means he needs to hire a lawyer.  I am hopeful that he will now simply cooperate with the buy back.  I will let you know his decision, which will have to be made within the next three weeks.
* Worked with Lance from the SBDC and Cynthia Dorie to update her business plan. She has really done a great job with cost reduction and control. She is looking for more local people to sew the hats, someone to work with her as an office assistant, and track inventory. She is expanding her ads into Alaska. 2018 could be a record year for her.
* Last governor luncheon with Gov. Snyder. Met Sara Cambensy in person and she wants to come to talk about Co. Rd. 407.
* Vickie Schwab is the new business development manager for the U.P. She stopped by to learn more about our area. I look forward to working with her.
* UPEDA held a membership meeting. The DNR is looking to expand our trail system and remove barriers from local communities. Several things were mentioned for our region such as: visitors don’t want to hike far or go on dirt roads. They don’t understand what we are about.
* I am going to work on the application to become a certified industrial park

**Information**

Loan portfolio update – Hand out

RLF Balance - Handout

July 2018 LMI – Handout

**Communication from public –** none

**Adjournment** – Motion made to adjourn at 4:56 by Downey Seconded by Waltman. All Ayes motion carried.

Approved by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2018.

Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson