**Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**Board of Directors**

Regular Board Meeting

**Minutes**

EDC Conference Room

March 6, 2018

Present: AJ Downey, John Waltman, Michelle Clark, John Grubb, Brian LeBoeuf and

 Colleen Duflo at 4:21 p.m.

Absent: Mike Slaght, Cliff Fossitt and Joe Villemure

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Downey.

**Communications from Public** None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting January 9, 2018 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion made by Waltman, seconded by LeBoeuf. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

The regular financial report and bills for January 2018 and February 2018 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Waltman, seconded by M. Clark. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Correspondence –** None

**Old Business**

1. Election of Executive Officers-Nominating committee recommended that it remains that same. Motion by Villemure, seconded by M. Clark. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**New Business**

1. **EDC Board Member Updates-**
2. Lance from SBCD, says that he is helping someone put together a business plan for Pizza Place.
3. Northern Wings Repair will be expanding this year.
4. Joshua James Bar & Grill is talking about moving into the Americas Best Value Inn.
5. Choice Gas is moving into the area.
6. **2018 EDC Project Ideas-**The sign is done on M28 and the lights will be put out when snow is gone. Tammy suggested that she could check into getting fiber from Park #1 to Park #2 so then we could finish getting Park #2 certified.
7. **EDC Bad Debt Account-**Audit currently has the bad debt at 17% and he will lower this but the board has to do so. After discussion the Board has tabled for a later meeting.
8. **Finance Committee Recommendation-**TJ Blakely is requesting $50,000 to purchase Eric’s Septic Service for $60,000 he has $10,000 down. His Uncle will be co-borrower on the loan. The purchase includes the book of business, chevy truck with pump unit, Ford van, sterling pumper truck with equipment, insight vision camera and equipment, 48 portable toilets and 4 wash stations, drain line cleaning equipment, portable toilet trailer, miscellaneous tools. There will be an all asset lien on these items. Finance committee terms 5 year loan at 5%, $943.56 monthly payments. Motion by Downey, seconded by M. Clark. All Ayes Motion passed.

**Directors Report:**

* Closed on Dake loan – new equipment working well
* Attended a meeting in St. Ignace about broadband. The ISD is trying to develop a consortium to add broadband to rural areas.
* Project Rising Tide: is waiting to see if we are approved for phase 2. Focusing on a community calendar for all to use. Suggested Chamber calendar not well received.
* EUPRPDC – Eastern UP Regional Planning and Development Council elected a new board chair: our very own John Waltman. I believe 3 reps from Luce County on the board Colleen, John and JJ.
* Visited LP with people from the state.
* Arranging a tour of high school students at LP to learn about career opportunities with and without a college degree.
* Met with Jack Bergman to discuss importance of federal grants for projects such as Crisp Point Light House
* REDAC – Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative: another study paid for by EUP Regional planning focus on logistics. Luce County was not covered. There were emerging forest product markets that I am looking into.
* UPEDA – Upper Peninsula Economic Development Association is forming a new board and I will most likely be Secretary or Treasurer.
* Fred has not yet returned purchase agreement but is planning to do so
* Ferrellgas update: phase 1 environmental study being conducted on 3/9. Explain Novi Energy 2008 hang up.
* Audit complete- no significant findings. Only note is about credit card policy. We are supposed to have one in place. Auditor will send us one to use or revise.
* Brow update 3/1/18 was deadline, no response, proceed with attorney?

**Information**

Loan Portfolio updated –Hand Out

RLF Balance – Hand out

**Communications from the Public**: None

 **Adjourned:** Motion by Waltman, seconded by M. Clark . All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Approved by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2018 Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson