**Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**EDC Office Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**November 12, 2019**

**Present**: Cliff Fossitt, Joe Villemure, Colleen Duflo, John Waltman, Michelle Clark, AJ Downey and Brian LeBeouf

**Absent**: Rose Pann and Paul Burton

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairperson Duflo

Reminder that the meeting is being recorded.

**Communication from Public**: None

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the regular board meeting held on October 8, 2019 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion made by Downey, seconded by Villemure. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

The regular financial report and bills for October 2019 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by LeBeouf seconded by Villemure. All Ayes motion passed.

**Correspondence –** Marc Blom was on the agenda but had a change in his schedule and was unable to attend.

**Old Business-**

1. **EDC project update** – Nothing to report.
2. **EGLE/Pike Lake Grant Update-**Phase 1 is complete, and they have scheduled Phase 2 to do the drilling.
3. **MEDC Grant Update-** There is a sign on the lot that was approved by the MEDC, the surveying has been done and billed to the grant. In the Spring we will advertise for bids.
4. **Industrial Park Update-** The Board discussed the response letter from Eric Buckler and what the next move should be. After a lengthy discussion the Board feels that Tammy should get a legal opinion from Tom Evanshevski and Tammy will be sending him all of the correspondence.

**New Business**

1. **Member Updates-** John Waltman mentioned that he heard the Pinestump is sold and switching owners December 1st, and the current owner will stay on for the first 6 months, and he also heard that the Winter Heaven Motel just down from the Pinestump is also in the process of being sold. The Board discussed the last school bond election, and talked about what can be done to improve the voter outcome for the next election.

**Directors Report**

* Pike Lake Grant update: Phase I is completed and the drilling has been ordered for Phase 2.
* MEDC Site Readiness Grant update: Lot 9 has been reconfigured and surveyed and recorded. Title search is ordered. Rest will have to wait for weather.
* Proposal for the other section of the 40 acres, attachments handed out. Estimated cost of $1,000 to survey and record as presented.
* IFT Applications submitted for Northern Hardwoods and Roat Sawmill all were approved by Pentland Township on Monday 10/28/19. Next step in the process is for the State to review and make a determination to approve or deny the Pentland Township recommendation.
* We received the $1,100 refund from the insurance company for the Movies North building.
* Week 3 of the EDFP class was very helpful and focused on loans, structuring loans and government programs. I got 96% on the test. Last class in January 2020.
* During that week, I met Jessica Flores from the Federal Historic Rehab Tax Credits for the state of Michigan and also teaches at MSU. I have reached out to her for help with the Falls Hotel building. It is registered as a historic site.
* I called into the UPCDC meeting on 10/10. Someone from MEDC also called in to give a budget update. As of that date no one had picked Pure Michigan to get it reinstated. The funding is cut 100% for that program at this time. The MEDC took a big hit as well and plans to trim back programs not staff at this time.
* Spent a great deal of time with Fred on his sawmill project. Business plan is almost complete. The narrative still needs to be finished and Fred is working with Lance Wolfe from SBDC to complete it. Final decisions will be made in the next few weeks and the goal is to have the business plan to the bank in December with a June tentative goal for construction beginning.
* SGRN met and will focus on legislation to set parameters for prison closings. As of now the decision is made based on financials only.
* Our community focus group has another meeting scheduled for November 22nd at 11:30-1 in the basement. Invest UP will pay for lunch for this meeting. How do we want to handle this moving forward? Meet quarterly? Lunch? Who will pay for the meal?
* Business Beyond Borders meeting in the Soo was informative on how Canada and the US work together.

**Information**

September 2019 LMI – Handout (Not Available in time of the meeting)

Loan portfolio update – Hand out

RLF Balance – Handout

**Communication from public –** None

**Adjournment** – Motion made to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. by Waltman Seconded by M. Clark. All Ayes motion passed.

Approved by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2019.

Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson