**0Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**EDC Office Conference Call**

**Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**March 24, 2020,**

**Present**: AJ Downey, Joe Villemure, Brian LeBeouf, John Waltman, Rose Pann, (Colleen Duflo and Paul Burton both phoned in at 4:45 p.m.)

**Absent**: Cliff Fossitt and Michelle Clark

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Downey

Reminder that the meeting is being recorded.

**Communication from Public**: None-Public member Jack Thomas was listening to the meeting.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the regular board meeting held on January 14, 2020 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion made by Waltman, seconded by Villemure. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

The regular financial report and bills for January and February were TABLED until the next face to face meeting since there is so many documents.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business-**

1. **EDC project update** – no update
2. **EGLE/Pike Lake Grant Update-** Mackinac Environmental Technology, Inc. is waiting on the DNR to sign off the report to close.
3. **MEDC Grant Update-** Nothing to report, waiting until Spring to put bids out to start clearing the lot.
4. **Industrial Park Update-** Tammy and Chairperson Duflo have not been able to meet. No update.

**New Business**

1. **Member Updates-** Pine Stump is trying to stay open but is struggling with this pandemic.
2. **2019 EDC Year End Report-**this was emailed to the EDC Board awhile ago. Tammy went over the report with the board.
3. **Finance Committee Recommendations-**Tammy has sent out the 2020 budget for the board to review and after discussion and going over each line item she is asking for approval. Motion by LeBeouf, to accept the budget seconded by Waltman. **Roll Call vote.**

Villemure-yes

Downey-Yes

Waltman-yes

LeBeouf-yes

Pann-yes

Motion Passed.

1. **Covid-19 & Current Loans assistance-**The State has sent out a brief outline of what they are offering to businesses help with loans and grants. There is no application yet and this is the only grant available so far. Tammy has been in touch with local businesses and our loan holders and has given them updates on SBA loans and unemployment information daily. The Luce County EDC Board can modify loans according to the by-laws. After lengthy board discussion Tammy recommended 1month payment deferral and 3 months after that with interest only payment, with 2nd month revisit with businesses. Motion made by LeBeuof, seconded by Waltman. Roll Call vote.

 Villemure-yes

 Downey-abstained

 Waltman-yes

 LeBeuof-yes

 Pann-yes

 Duflo-yes

New Loan stand point we need to have approval from McMillan Township and Luce County for new loans. We can have a resolution to present to both McMillan Township and Luce County to have Tammy to use her own digression to offer and lend up to $10,000 at 4% interest rate, 36-month term, with the first 3 months interest only payments to qualifying businesses of Luce County. This agreement is temporary and is a result of the COVID-19 crisis and is intended to expedite support to our businesses in Luce County during this crisis. This Resolution will be effective the date of signing, continuing to August 31, 2020. Motion made by Burton, seconded LeBeouf. Roll Call Vote.

Villemure-yes

Duflo-yes

Downey-yes

Waltman-yes

LeBeouf-yes

Burton-yes

Pann-yes

Motion passed.

**Directors Report**

February / March 2020 Directors Report

General Updates:

* 1. I spoke to Fred and he is still planning to move forward but it will be next year not this year. He wants to buy lot 7 to store his equipment. I have sent him a purchase agreement.
	2. Working with two different clients looking at buildings downtown. One is potential restaurant the other is t-shirt/gift shop. The Pines building is sold and will become a T-shirt/gift shop
	3. Community focus group was well attended. They identified three critical points for our community: child care, housing and transportation. Working on potential daycare centers for the community. HNJH is interested in partnering and getting a center open and then open to public as well to help with the child care shortage. The group is working to arrange a meeting with the hospital and the catholic church for potential space. The group is exploring other options as well.
	4. Northern Star Chiropractic is up and running doing very well. He is getting rave reviews so far! He is hiring an office assistant
	5. Pine Stump is booming! Had a live band and said place was packed. The shutdown has slowed greatly.
	6. Island Grille loan paid in full, they sold the property to Holiday.
	7. Annette did an online Webinar on Marketing
	8. Economic Development Administration meeting on 3/9 – Met with the rep for our area and learned about programs. They paid for the industrial park expansion in 2011. They would possibly help fund a study that would tell us the best businesses to recruit and how to go about it. Grants are a match some are 50/50 but due to our economy we may quality for a 60%/70% match. Looking more into this. Chippewa county recently completed one and are very happy with results. I have asked to see it, no response yet.
	9. MEDC is changing strategy a bit, Michigan ranks 49 of 50 (Indiana is last) in ability to recover from economic downturns. They created a strategic plan to address this issue. Pure Michigan is part of the strategy.
	10. Website updated to include Covid-19 information. Only guidance and assistance. No medical stats, not our purpose.
	11. Covid-19 response: update; UP wide group and state wide group
	12. I have reached out to our local business to offer my assistance and a few are reaching out some are really struggling.
	13. IEDC free webinar on 3/23: gave some good insight on disaster recover from around the US and Toronto. They talked about programs and will send information about them to all that called in. There were 1,500 people on the free webinar.
	14. I am participating in several different conference calls weekly and sometimes more often to keep up with the changes that are happening daily.

**Information**

December 2019 LMI – Handout-**will be handed out at the next face to face meeting.**

Loan portfolio update – Handout- **will be handed out at the next face to face meeting.**

RLF Balance – Handout- **will be handed out at the next face to face meeting.**

**Communication from public –** None

**Adjournment** – Motion made to adjourn at 5:19 p.m. by Waltman, Seconded by Burton. All Ayes motion passed.

Villemure-yes

Duflo-yes

Downey-yes

Waltman-yes

LeBeouf-yes

Burton-yes

Pann-yes

Motion passed.

Approved by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2020.

Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson