**Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**EDC Office Conference Call**

**Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**August 11, 2020**

**Present**: Joe Villemure, Cliff Fossitt, Colleen Duflo, A.J. Downey, John Waltman, and Rose Pann

**Absent**: Paul Burton, Michelle Clark and Brian LeBeouf

**Communication from Public**:

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the regular board meeting held via conference call on July 14, 2020 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion made by Pann, seconded by Waltman. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

The regular financial report and bills for June were reviewed and approved as presented. Tammy reported nothing unusual in the financials. Motion by Villemure, seconded by Downey. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Correspondence: None**

**Old Business-**

1. **EDC project update** – no update, but if any board members have any suggestions to bring to the table please do so.
2. **EGLE/Pike Lake Grant Update-** Tammy is waiting for the final report to add in admin fees, then should be closed out soon. The Board is frustrated on how this Grant is going and they would like Tammy to look into some questions that they have.
3. **MEDC Grant lot-** Tammy has contact Kevin Brow to let him know that the contract is ready for him to sign so he can move forward
4. **Industrial Park #2 lot--**Tammy has contact Kevin Brow to let him know that the contract is ready for him to sign so he can move forward and she can show him which lot that the EDC would like cleared.
5. **Reviewing editing & updating by by-laws, and editing employee documents to match by-laws-**Chairperson Duflo will be contacting the committees to set up meeting dates.

**New Business**

1. **Member Updates-** Northern Wings is working on getting trades back to this area. We are losing all kinds of professionals and need to help in any way that we can to bring them back. Waltman stated that from what he hears that all the campgrounds in the UP are full.
2. **Covid-19 & Current Loans assistance-** New Grants of round 2, Tammy and John Waltman went over the application from Luce county. Tammy put together a spreadsheet that Regional Planning applauded her for doing.
3. **Specific targeted marketing strategies for professionals we are lacking in Newberry-** Dr. Tokar is retired and Dr. Newby is not far behind him and the business is for sale. Chairperson Duflo said that the Executive Committee needs to meet and put together a strategic plan and move forward.
4. **Expiring Board Seats-**Cliff Fossitt, Joe Villemure and Brian LeBeouf seats will be expiring on September 30th. Cliff is not going to be running again and has served 18 years on this board. Joe will be running again. Brian will be letting us know soon what he plans on doing. We will be running an ad in the newspaper for this private sector seat.

**Directors Report-**

* CN still not clear on what cleanup efforts are needed at the tracks. They feel tracks are in good shape and will be ready to use
* Completed Business Expansion & Retention class. One left before I can sit for the CEcD Exam.
* Overview of training spent since I started in January of 2015. This includes the BR&E course that was just completed.
  + Total Training Costs $18,313.15 (includes class fee, travel, hotel, food etc.)
  + EDC Paid $1,066.51
  + Outside sources paid: $17,246.64 (UPCDC & Regional Planning)
  + Percentage of Total Training Costs Pd by the EDC 5.82%
* Ray Mahaffy paid his loan in full
* Fred Roat paid for lot 7 in the Industrial Park, in full. Final preparations being made to his business plan.
* We paid Brow the amount of $ 1,569.19 as judgment stated
* Covenants final vote numbers:
  + Out of the 10 private land owners 8, returned votes
  + 7 yes, 1 no
  + The private 10 owners hold 40.32% of the park land
  + Yes, votes total 32.64% of the entire land in the park
  + Removing the EDC land from the percentage owned we have an 80.95% yes vote on covenants changes.
  + Even if the two owners that did not respond vote no we still have a majority vote of yes
  + I will record covenants this week and inform the public land owners
* Suggestion was made to change voting policy for covenants to be based on the number of employees not percentage of land.
* Kerr is filling the hole on his lot; the second sign was removed and the vehicles in the back of the lot are for winter maintenance
* Dake understands his lot needs to be cleaned up. He is the only company around and paying everyone overtime, will be hiring 2-3 more drivers. He explained the insurance lag to me and I assured him we understood and would work with him. He is working to clean up the lot
* Spoke to Eric Buckler, his father is on hospice, apologized for the delay in giving an update.
* We have a potential business interested in Luce County; he needs rail access. I gave him the phone numbers of Buckler and Zellar’s as potential lots to be purchased. Both current owners indicated they would entertain an offer
* Walthers is interested in the ZD building for potato storage
* I have spoken to 5 new clients interested in starting new businesses in the community referred them all to SBDC for business plan completion as first steps
* Round 2 of Cares Act grant applications are being reviewed, business owners will be notified by the end of August
* I will be taking a partial sick day on Friday also August 19th for pre-op appointments and would like to take a personal day on August 28th
* I have canceled the fax line – it is not used very often it will save just over $100/year
* Annette and I have been working on the website updates and refreshing



**1. Admin Update-**

Annette was out for two weeks from her surgery and slowing getting back into work.

**Information**

Loan portfolio update – Handout-in board packet for review

RLF Balance – Handout-in board packet for review

**Communication from public –** None

**Adjournment** – Motion made to adjourn at 5:04 p.m. by Waltman, Seconded by Downey. All Ayes motion passed.

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

Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson