**Luce County Economic Development Corporation**

**EDC Office Conference Call**

**Minutes**

**4:00 p.m.**

**September 8, 2020**

**Present**: Joe Villemure, Cliff Fossitt, Colleen Duflo, John Waltman, Rose Pann and Paul Burton (arriving at 4:31 p.m.)

**Absent**: AJ Downey, Michelle Clark and Brian LeBeouf

**Communication from Public**:

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the regular board meeting held via conference call on August 11, 2020 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion made by Villemure, seconded by Waltman. All Ayes. Motion passed.

**Approval of Financial Report/Bills**

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

**Correspondence: None**

**Old Business-**

1. **EDC project update** – Discussion about Strategic Plan, Attraction Plan & etc.- Tammy has put together an Attraction Plan that is for internal use for right now, after discussion and reviewing, the board feels that Tammy is going in the right direction with this.
2. **EGLE/Pike Lake Grant Update-** Tammy has all the final report done from Mackinac Environmental, quarterly report has been submitted. This project is still qualified for sale. This Grant should be closed next month.
3. **MEDC Grant lot-** Kevin Brow has signed and sent back his contract, and has started flagging the driveway out.
4. **Industrial Park #2 lot-**Kevin Brow has been sent his contract, and then when Kevin is done with the MEDC Grant Lot, Tammy will meet him and A.J. over there.
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 and the meetings will have to place in the basement of the health department for social distancing.
6. **Buckler Property Update-** He purchased the lot in September 2014 for $1400. Tammy has not heard anything back for him, in regards to the certify letter that we sent him July 18th. The board has asked Tammy to call him again and send him a certified follow up letter with a date of October 8th,2020 that he would need to response by and if no response we will have to take legal action.

**New Business**

1. **Discussion about reopening the EDC office-** Various offices are open, schools are returning, sports are starting. With the recent EO regarding region 6 & 8 we can now be back open by appointment only and follow the CDC guidelines with screening and sanitizing. Motion by Fossitt, to reopen the EDC office on Monday September 14th, seconded by Burton. All Ayes. Motion passed.
2. **EDC Board Member Updates-** Chariperson Duflo stated that most of the local businesses have mentioned that they have had a record year. Having staffing issues so they have been adjusting their schedules. Campgrounds have been full all summer. Timber industries is not looking great, and because of that some mills have been closing.
3. **Covid-19 & Current Loans assistance-** The Grant applicants have been notifiedby email if they did not receive the grant and then those awarded by the grant have been notified by Representative Cambensey and Senator Schmidt.
4. **Specific targeted marketing strategies for professionals we are lacking in Newberry-** Tammy has since sent out seven letters to dental schools, and is planning on sending out more.
5. **Expiring Board Seats-** Hunter Nostrant’s application was the only application that we have received, motion by Waltman, to approve his to replace Cliff Fossitt’s private sector seat, seconded by Villemure. All Ayes. Motion passed. Chairperson Duflo, thanked Cliff Fossitt for his many years of service on the EDC board.

**Roll Call:**

**Villemure-yes**

**Fossitt-yes**

**Duflo-yes**

**Waltman-yes**

**Burton-yes**

**Pann-yes**

6. **Fred Roat Site Plan**- His plan is in the board packet for review. After discussion the board feels

that his plan can be approved. Motion by Burton, seconded by Waltman. All Ayes. Motion

passed.

**Roll Call:**

**Villemure-yes**

**Fossit-Yes**

**Duflo-yes**

**Waltman-yes**

**Burton-yes**

**Pann-yes**

**Directors Report-**

* Pike Lake update – This is a direct quote from our representative at EGLE about this grant “From a programmatic side, we do not actually require a development/developer for site assessment grants. The site must show development potential, which this site did. The assessment (and the grant project as a whole) was conducted to prepare the site for development and ready it for sale. That fits with the intent of the project and with the signed contract, in my opinion.”
  + Phase 1, phase 2 and final reports completed and submitted from Mackinac Environmental. I have to finish closing documents after they are sent to me.
* Spoke to Dr. Newby and he was very grateful I reached out and impressed we are on top of things in our community. Annette has updated zoom prospector to ensure correct information was posted. We talked about him listing to the Michigan Dental Association’s board where jobs and practices for sale are listed. We talked about a broker and he has spoken to the man in the past.
  + Wrote a letter to the deans of the dental schools, Dr. Newby, John, AJ and Annette helped with the draft.
    - Sent to the following 7 Universities (to the dean of the dental school):
      * U of M
      * Marquette University- Milwaukee
      * The Ohio State
      * University of Detroit Mercy
      * UIC College of Dentistry – University of Illinois at Chicago
      * Case Western Reserve University – Cleveland
      * Indiana University School of Dentistry
  + Dentist Search update: I have spoken to Dr. Newby several times, since my first initial phone call with him and he is very appreciative that we are taking initiative on this and was happy to hear from me.
* I reached out to Rick Minard about veterans starting businesses in our community. He suggested I create a flyer for him to post in his office for him to hand out. He too was happy someone is taking an interest in our vets.
* Met CN at track: I know understand what they need and will get it taken care of in the spring. Track is in good shape and shouldn’t need any major work for ten or so years.
* I am creating an attraction plan for executive committee to review. Starting with Dentists and Veterans. Other trades will be added from there
* Kevin Brow has pulled a permit to put the driveway in and will start the work soon.
* Fred submitted his business plan to MBank and we are moving forward. He also sent a site plan for board approval
* Spoke to Northern Wings about their training center. They are working on details. Until schools start and stay in class they are on hold. He appreciated the offer of help and will keep us posted.
* Funds injected into the community:



* Working with a gentleman to put a cedar mill in the ZD building. He is currently negotiating with John Mowry. He also spoke to Fred about purchasing lot 17 (behind the ZD building)
* Researched possibility of the EDC granting funds document was attached to meeting agenda
* Covenants recorded, and on website. Letters sent to owners as well
* No Forestry committee meeting this year due to Covid. Spoke with Jerry and there will not be any significant timber revenue in 2021. Possibly a small white pine sale, he will reevaluate in the spring and let me know

**1. Admin Update-**

Annette helped Tammy with the dentist letter that was sent out to the dental schools and research the practices on how to recruit those close to graduating. Contacted the clerk’s office in Luce County to research owners of some properties. Website has been taking up a lot of her time with research and revamping the current EDC site, and also get some costs together for reconstruction of the current site or configuring a new site and what those differences would be. Also, preparing packets together for this meeting, she has been in contact with the farmers from when the first round of grants came out.

**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 5:12 p.m. by Waltman, Seconded by Fossitt.

All Ayes motion passed.

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

Cliff Fossitt, Secretary/Colleen Duflo, Chairperson