

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
January 10, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. in the Commission Chambers located on the second floor of the Governmental Center and led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Warren Call, Kevin Klein, Nate Alger, Marty Colburn, Keef Morgan, Sonny Wheelock, Richard Lewis, Michael Naughton, Marty Coburn, Jessica Sullivan (8:20), Dennis Arouca (via phone)

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Naughton, seconded by Wheelock to approve the agenda as presented. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Klein, seconded by Alger to approve the minutes of 11-8-2018 as distributed. **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS / ACTION ITEMS

1. Rural Broad Band ReConnect

Arouca presented information received from Jason Allen, regarding the opportunity for grant funding of rural broadband. Discussion continued regarding how EDC might be engaged to facilitate involvement.

Alger will reach out to both Cherryland and Light & Power.

Klein suggested that this could be one of the tools that could be on the web site .

2. Strategic Planning

Call discussed the strategic planning in December of 2017 and how well this worked to keep the group focused for 2018 and moving forward. Is it time to look at next step?

Chris Forsyth presented information regarding what the EDC has statutory powers to do which affects how we go forward. The EDO will be a non-profit and will not have those powers. Determination that this may be a premature question and perhaps the consultant will be able to assist in answering outstanding questions. The EDC may continue and would have fiscal and fiduciary responsibility. An EDO may not be able to do that. Also, suggested was that a strategic plan should be for a longer term than one year.

3. EDO Update - presented by Sullivan

The RFP committee was put in charge of going out and meeting with consultants. On December 21st we met with all four consultants. In general, all who provided proposals have the knowledge and capabilities to complete the task. Warren and Jessica will have follow-up conversations with the top 2 candidates. The proposals were between \$50,000-90,000. Funding was also discussed and the city and county would not be expected /anticipated to input significant funding.

TraverseCONNECT will hold the contract. Under their direction we would ask the City Manager and County Administrator to serve on the Board and identify key stakeholders in the community. This would be about a 7 member board and although the EDO would be private

sector driven, it is important to realize everyone needs a seat at the table. Nate suggested meeting with the townships and/or Northern Nexus and will share their contact information and meeting dates.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting schedule for 2019 was discussed and will continue on the 2nd Thursday of the month @ 8:00 a.m..

OLD BUSINESS

Arouca reminded the board to consider 20 Fathoms Sponsorship. Naughton and Call are on the board so abstained.

A motion to have the vice chair execute an agreement not to exceed \$3000 for 1 year only was proposed by Richard Lewis. Additional discussion continued and Richard withdrew his motion.

Call out at 8:50.
Lewis out at 8:50

Arouca will follow up with 20 fathoms and ask they expand the definition of what will be offered at the different membership levels.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

Alger questioned the status of Mr. Chauncey Kelly and Jessica will follow up with Christian.

Wheelock announced the Northwest Orchard and Vineyard Show next Tuesday and Wednesday at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Klein commented on the number of passengers through the airport last year and flights being added.

Coburn indicated they are currently working on an expansion that will bring in 60 industrial jobs to the area.

Keef Morgan is excited to be a member of the board and community.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m..