
MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2019, 3:00 p.m.
Forest County Board Room, Crandon, Wisconsin

Attendees: Chris Stark, Tom Tallier, Mike Gruett, Amy Paikowski, Mark Ferris, Melinda Otto, Terry Lukas, Jack Matuszewski, Megan Bachand, RT Krueger, Michelle Gobert, Jeff Walsh, Al Murray, Wally Leja, Brittany Beyer, Jim Rosenberg, Dick Popp, Larry Berg

- I. Welcome: Secretary Melinda Otto welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Introductions took place.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve was made by Lukas, second by Leja. All aye, motion carried.
- III. Approval of January 10, 2019, Minutes: Gruett made the motion to approve, seconded by Lukas. All aye, motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dick Popp arrived and took over running the meeting. He also provided overview of finances and budget, received refund for JEM Grant, stating the major expenses being quarterly taxes and payroll. Otto made the motion to put the report on file, seconded by Matuszewski. All aye, motion carried.
- V. Presentations
 - a) Directors Report: Ferris stated city's progress from recent meetings allowing Hometown Trolley's transfer title approval for lot expansion making a positive step forward for beginning of Phase II in late spring.
 - b) Any Other: None at this time.
- VI. Ongoing Business
 - a) Scenic Byway JEM Grant Update: Ferris relayed that FCEDP and the committee are moving forward with year 2 for the Fall in Love with the Byway campaign. He said the 2018 grant application was given positive feedback by the Department of Tourism.
 - b) County-Wide Signage Effort: Entry point signage is needed with updated logo for consistency. Gobert suggests Fab Lab for producing signage.
 - c) Forest County Job Center Update: Job Center is open every other Thursday with a steady traffic of people.
 - d) Any Other: Otto reminds all of Board of Directors upcoming May elections. City of Crandon adjusted membership level from \$5000 to \$2000.
- VII. New Business:
 - a) RLF Microloan Applications: One current application will be reviewed tomorrow.

- b) Hometown Expansion: Ferris said Hometown Trolley will pay surveying and transfer property costs. With expansion Hometown will have a significant increase in employees. Otto states the city is contracted with Midstate Associates and will work with FCEDP with intent to create a plan for best use of the TIF District. Ferris states this is a no brainer with 12 acres of development bringing in money for the city within a year's time. A supportive public presence at recent county board meeting made positive decisions for the climate of the city.
- c) Broadband: Ferris explained the effort for broadband expansion for Forest County. Gobert advises of Forest County UW Extension 4-H grant through the National 4-H council and Microsoft encouraging youth leadership of broadband expansion becoming Digital Ambassadors will create improvements in broadband access for Forest County. Ferris met with Crandon, Laona, and Wabeno Schools to create survey for developing data to support broadband expansion grant. Murray shared the effort for planning to create mapping where services currently exist, stating key identified components needed to provide service expansion such as power, access, and elevation. Gobert mentioned Forest County has the strongest digital divide out of the 10 counties participating in broadband expansion.
- d) Gaming Compact Resolution: Ferris and Murray explained request by resolution to governor. Murray relayed the Forest County Towns Association's interest.

VIII. Partner Report/Updates: 2019 Forest County Visitor Guides are now available. Murray shared utility infrastructure mapping underway for towns, providing considerations for economic development and zoning, mapped with current and potential businesses. Gobert stated financial simulation program implemented for 11th grade students where involved students will meet with participating Forest County business representatives in a workshop setting. Leja states Goodman/Armstrong economic development will be opening again.

IX. Next meeting was set for March 21, 2019

X. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Lukas, seconded by Otto. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Megan Bachand
Administrative Assistant
Forest County Chamber of Commerce