

Attendance: Chris Shafer, Mary Belland, Terry Lukas, Dick Popp, Ron Skallerud, Wally Leja, Cindy Gretzinger

Guests : Kenzie Carlson (Maple Place), Jim Rosenberg (WEDC)

1. Call Meeting to Order 3:03PM
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. 1st - Wally Leja 2nd - Ron Skallerud all in favor - yes
3. Approval of 2/28/2023 Meeting Minutes (with amendments)
 - a. 1st - Dick Popp 2nd - Wally Leja all in favor - yes
4. Treasurer's Report (Dick Popp not present - emailed financials)
 - a. No deposits or withdrawals, all but one loan holder is paid up, keep 4% interest rate on loans,
 - b. Terry - What happens if Dick is not here to write out checks. Dick - Terry is authorized to write checks for FCEDP
 - c. 1st - Wally Laje 2nd - Terry Lukas all in favor - yes
5. Welcome Ron Skallerud
 - a. This is a great thing for FCEDP, his knowledge on the committee will be very meaningful.
 - b. Thank you Cindy for getting him involved with the board
 - c. Ron is glad to be back
6. Maple Place (Kenzie Carlson)
 - a. Brief overview of the Maple place Revitalization of the Connor Store in Laona, includes what the next steps are, talks about the roof and interior of the building, what they are working on for grants and how they are incorporating the community.
 - b. The community of Laona is rallying behind the project. Building will be an innovation center, business center, gathering hub - the vision is fluid and will work with the changing needs of the Laona and Forest County Communities.
 - c. Cost to update will be close to 3.5 Million, with the upper floor at 2 million alone, worked with vilas county on broadband grants, they are a historical site, looking at securing matching funds for the project and gaining non fiscal partnerships from the Town of Laona, Laona Beautifying Committee, and possibility FCEDP.
 - d. In need of Partnerships from various entities in Forest County, Contractors, Matching Funds, Broadband funding, and community outreach.
7. Directors Report
 - a. Would like a show of support for the Maple Place Project
 - b. Broadband is still being discussed at length - will discuss more at the broadband meeting.
 - c. Not much else to report
8. Partners Report
 - a. Jim Rosenberge (WEDC)

- i. Maple Place - There are historic tax credits that can be sold to gain some revenue for the project. This is solid and is used to fund the investment of the project.
 - ii. Vibrant Spaces was a success for a pilot program and awardees will be announced in late Spring.
- 9. Other business
 - a. Job Corps - Job Fair (April 25th)
 - b. Broadband hinges on Economic Development
 - i. Reinstate resolution for broadband bonding issue - a resolution will be reinstated on the 4/6/2023 County meeting
 - ii. Terry stated to bring it back to a committee in finance on broadband
 - iii. Chris recommended close session for the county meeting to openly discuss and ask questions about broadband to those who may not understand the process and what it all entails in order to make a more informed decision. Moving forward we need to keep the communication with BugTussel professional and respectful.
 - iv. RPN Signature Project
 - 1. If the county board is done with broadband then we need to change what our signature project is going to be for funding through the federal and state government.
 - 2. Recorded call is still available for the signature project guidelines and information if needed.
- 10. Next Meeting
 - a. April 25th, 2023 3:00PM County Board Room
- 11. Adjourn - 3:58 Pm
 - a. 1st - Wally Laje 2nd - Ron Skallerud all in favor - yes