

**Lanesboro Economic Development Authority
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 7, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.
Council Chambers & Zoom**

Present Members: X Tom Pursell Linda Tacke X Joe Goetzke
 X Jason Resseman X Michael Boho

Staff: X Cathy Enerson X Darla Taylor X Mitchell Walbridge

Guests: Mark Lawstuen, Jonathan Levine, Sarah Peterson, Bonita Underbakke

Member Tacke was present via Zoom, but did not participate in discussion or vote as her location was not posted on the meeting agenda.

1. **Call to Order:** Member Resseman called to order the Regular Meeting of the Lanesboro Economic Development Authority at 10:30 a.m.
2. **Agenda:** Cathy Enerson, EDA Director, requested Business Promotion Information be added as a business item under Miscellaneous. Member Pursell entered a motion to approve the agenda with the requested addition; Member Goetzke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. **Public Comments:** No comments were shared.
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Minutes of the Regular EDA Meeting, February 1, 2024
 - B. February Financial ReportsMember Goetzke entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Member Pursell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Department Reports:**
 - A. City Council/City Administrator/Planning and Zoning:

Member Goetzke shared that the city council, along with the Planning and Zoning Commission and Heritage Preservation Commission, began the process of reviewing ordinances and evaluating the permitted land uses around short term lodging. The city council also split the one-time Public Safety Aid funds that the city received between the police department and fire department.

Member Resseman also commented on Planning and Zoning’s efforts to review short term rental regulation in the community. In addition, Planning and Zoning did an initial review of Zach Lind’s food stand plan for the downtown lot. Members of the Zoning Commission expressed concerns about how the plan fits within the guidelines of existing ordinances. More information will be reviewed, and the Heritage Preservation Commission will still need to approve the aesthetics of the plan.
 - B. Chamber of Commerce: Member Goetzke shared the Chamber report. Member Goetzke stated he has taken over as the Chamber of Commerce’s executive director. He and Alison Leathers recently attended the Explore Minnesota Tourism conference. Member Goetzke presented that the Chamber will continue with the Depot Delivery communications and a monthly newsletter. The Chamber’s website underwent a homepage refresh and development of a new website is in progress. Visitor’s Guides are being distributed and there is now an opportunity to view an electronic edition. Member Goetzke is also moving forward with the Chamber’s rebranding process. The Chamber is also inviting a group of influencers/bloggers to Lanesboro to experience what Lanesboro has to offer.

Approved 04/04/2024

Members of the group will in turn author articles and blogs that will be marketed to different publications.

- C. School Board: School board member Sarah Peterson stated that a contract negotiation proposal with the district's teachers is being considered. The school board also has an upcoming retreat workshop. As always, the district needs bus drivers, kitchen staff, and paraprofessionals.

6. Revolving Loan:

- A. Lind Update: EDA Director Enerson will reach out to Zach Lind with an update on the EDA Board's position as Lind continues to work through his proposal with the City.

7. Continued Business:

- A. USDA Loan Submission: EDA Director Enerson shared the application to the USDA has been submitted. The award announcement for the application is expected in May.
- B. 2024 Work Plan & Strategic Goals: EDA Director Enerson informed members of the resources available to members. The next step is to refine a survey before it is distributed. Member Goetzke and Member Boho will meet with Director Enerson in March to review the survey.
- C. Housing Investment and Programs for 2024-2025:
 - a. Local Housing Trust Fund: Members discussed whether a Local Housing Trust Fund should be formed. Matching funds from the City would be required. Members discussed the need and level of priority of the Trust Fund. Member Goetzke noted that it likely would be challenging for the City to levy tax dollars to receive the match from the state. No action was taken.
 - b. Local Tax Credits: EDA Director Enerson reminded members of the opportunity for individuals to take advantage of the local tax credit opportunity. Member Resseman entered a motion to have EDA Director Enerson share the information with local accountants and tax preparers; Member Goetzke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

8. New Business:

- A. Lanesboro Visitor's Guide Contribution: In the past the EDA and Lanesboro Public Schools have contributed funds to offset the cost of the business directory in the Chamber of Commerce's Visitor's Guide. \$750.00 was requested from the EDA by the Chamber. Member Pursell entered a motion to contribute the requested \$750 from the EDA's Project Funds; Member Boho seconded the motion. Motion carried with Members Pursell, Boho, and Resseman voting in favor. Member Goetzke abstained.
- B. REsimplifi Onboarding: Director Enerson shared information about the REsimplifi system and how it aids in commercial property listings.
- C. LEAN Meeting: Director Enerson shared the date of the next LEAN meeting has changed to April 24 at 6:00 p.m.
- D. REV Meeting: Director Enerson is planning to attend the March 14 REV meeting. Members of the EDA are also encouraged to attend if they are available.
- E. Paint the Town Grant and Educational Opportunities: Director Enerson shared various grant and educational opportunities with members.

- 9. Miscellaneous:** Director Enerson provided a recap of the last Lanesboro Business Promotion Group meeting and how members of the group discussed the EDA's role in filling downtown storefronts. Director Enerson stated that through CEDA, insights are available regarding the business needs of particular industries. Member Goetzke added that the conversation stemmed from concern over the proliferation of VRBO's and Airbnb's in Lanesboro. Director Enerson also shared the Light Up Sylvan Park holiday-themed light show is in development.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

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Member Resseman adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk