

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Chair Sullivan led the pledge of

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marty Colburn, Kevin Klein, Jessica Sullivan, Christie Minervini, Dennis Arouca, Betsy Coffia, Keef Morgan, Nate Alger, Kevin Endres, Tom Kern, Gary Howe

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

MOTION by Kern, second by Howe to reappoint Jessica Sullivan as Chairperson and Keef Morgan as Vice Chairperson.

YAYS Kern, Alger, Colburn, Coffia, Klein, Morgan, Howe, Minervini, Endres, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOVED by Alger, seconded by Howe, to approve the agenda.

YAYS Kern, Coffia, Alger, Colburn, Endres, Klein, Morgan, Howe, Arouca, Minervini, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Howe, seconded by Minervini, to approve the regular session minutes of 8-13-20

YAYS Endres, Minervini, Arouca, Howe, Morgan, Klein, Colburn, Alger, Coffia, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT

REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS:

a) Pugsley Redevelopment Project update by Lisa Leedy with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Grand Traverse Economic Development (GTED)

Chris Forsyth gave a background on the history of Camp Pugsley.

Lisa Leedy provided an update on the purchase and the vision GTED has for the Pugsley property. They have hit the ground running since the purchase in December 2020, working with U of M on marketing of the site. Energy efficiency and sustainability is a key focus. There are several potential tenants looking at the property. The goal is to work with tenants that have synergy.

The application to utilize a portion of the grounds for a Satellite Command and Control Center has been submitted and the GTED is currently a front runner for the project. A letter of support from the EDC board will probably be asked for in the future.

The GTED has a different mission for the property than other developers. GTED is very thoughtful about their impact, environmentally and on the economy of the community, there is a desire to be a good partner.

The two small communities that surround the property are looking to see economic growth, job creation and opportunities for their citizens. So far community support has been good.

The property consists of 105 acres. The current facility on the property holds office spaces, medical and dental clinics. In order for the satellite control center to use the property they will create their own building to fit their needs. There is not an estimated time on the commitment for the satellite control project as COVID has slowed the process.

GTED is currently working on projects to support the need for housing due to the community growth.

b) Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Industry 4.0 Regional Programming Grant Application, Discussion and Support

Dennis Arouca gave a summary of the MEDC Industry 4.0 Grant and expressed the importance of a local match and letter of support to help with the grant process. (Grant application will need to be submitted by January 20th)

MOTION by Colburn, second by Kern to approve the letter of support.

YAYS Coffia, Kern, Alger, Colburn, Klein, Morgan, Howe, Arouca, Minervini, Endres, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT

c) City Update – Marty Colburn

City operations are ongoing, working with the County for an opening plan. Many employees are working from home, but services are still available.

Housing and commercial projects continue throughout the city

The City is handling lawsuits regarding medical and recreational marijuana businesses

City Commission – Helping local businesses. Anticipating a busy summer.

d) County Update – Nate Alger

The Governmental Center - operational but by appoint, fiscally we are strong, largely due to the Cares Funding.

Business – There are businesses closing yet construction is still happening

EnerGov – Is in full swing, completely online in the future, East bay has had good experience.

The County received grant funds of \$327,000 to reimburse COVID related expenses and is working with MEDC to replenish the Urgency Needs Fund.

COVID 19 – focus has transitioned from number of cases to vaccinations

GTC Health Dept is partnering with NMC – providing vaccination clinic at NMC Hagerty Center finishing phase - 1A and with help from National Guard administering phase 1B. When vaccines are available, scheduling links will be released via the County website and Facebook page.

There is a screening process with questions of why do you qualify for this stage of the vaccine as well as a disclaimer that you may be turned away if you are not scheduled or do not qualify.

Keef Morgan gave stated the County's Epic GT has been a fantastic system and would like to see the City use this as well.

Christie Minervini would like to see it on a study session for the City and encourage everyone switch over.

e) Airport Update – Kevin Klein

Beginning the transition to an airport authority.

Travel down is about 50%, however, compared to the rest of the country TVC has fared well.

Hoping summer travel will increase. Many things are changing in the industry due to COVID.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) Approve 2021 Meeting Schedule

MOTION by Minervini, second by Kern to approve the 2021 meeting schedule with the amendment of combining the November and December meeting on December 9, 2021.

YAYS Coffia, Alger, Kern, Klein, Morgan, Howe, Arouca, Minervini, Endres, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT

8. OLD BUSINESS:

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT (Refer to Rules under Public Comment/Input above)

10. NOTICES

11. CLOSED SESSION: (IF NEEDED)

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Alger, second by Howe

YAYS Coffia, Alger, Kern, Klein, Morgan, Howe, Arouca, Minervini, Endres, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT

DRAFT

REPORTS / ACTION ITEM

a) Venture North Report: Presented by Laura Galbraith

Galbraith gave background information on Venture North, a partner of Traverse Connect. Focused on providing business loans and assistance to small businesses and to make sure businesses are aware of funds available. Almost \$600,000 in loan funds available to Grand Traverse County. The CDBG Loan Program has created Job Retention Loans to assist businesses. Sullivan asked what the EDC board could be doing to help. Galbraith said being aware of this tool and spreading the word to help area businesses. Arouca asked if Venture North felt they had a handle on the Manufacturing Community, as he could set up an opportunity for Galbraith to present to them. Galbraith looked forward to that opportunity.

b) CAR Conference Update

Dennis Arouca - was not able to attend. There was a large number of participants. Arouca will report back when he has more information on the conference.

c) Covid 19 Update

CITY, Marty Colburn – Economic development continues - EGLE loans, Brownfield. The fiber bugs has been worked out and are in beta testing now. The pandemic has shown as well as increased the need for broadband in the community. 8th street projects are going well and moving forward. City goals and initiatives are being set. There are many different projects the City is working on

COUNTY, Rob Hentschel and Chris Forsyth – The county has been working on online permitting for construction code and East Bay Township. The launch was set back due to Covid 19. The public launch should be happening shortly with intentions of adding more departments, such as soil erosion, addressing and DPW. Sullivan asked, what other online portals the County has been looking at. Forsyth shared that along with the construction permitting, the county is working with the County Clerk looking at Ottawa County's online marriage licenses and DBA's formats. We are also working with the treasurer for online dog licenses. Morgan asked if the County was working with the City on the construction permits? Or is it strictly county? Forsyth stated that East Bay is currently the only township working with this online permitting. Waiting to see how things work out with East Bay and hope to work with more Townships and the City.

AIRPORT, Kevin Klein – Operational stats for July are down about 33-34%, 60.8% down for passengers, down around 46% for the year. August brought the return of some flights, bringing more opportunities for passenger movement. Fall bookings have fallen off some. There is currently an October 1 deadline for funding, waiting to see if it will be extended. The Heals/Heroes Act being worked on an estimated \$10 billion for the airline industry. Cargo

shipping is down about 25%. The Great Lakes Equestrian Festival was helpful, bringing in travelers. The Cares Act will provide about 26 months of coverage, waiting on final grant paperwork for airport improvement. EGLE grant and small state grants in the last 4 months have provided approx. \$18,000,000 for improvements. We are moving forward. Hertz rental cars has filed for bankruptcy. Waiting on income form the airlines to come in, have not received money from airlines since late January.

Sullivan asked for suggestions on what the EDC Board could be doing during this time? Minervini suggested that translating numbers regarding development and how it will benefit the community is needed. To know what investment, recruiting and retaining will mean for the City. Colburn shared the need for childcare, transportation and housing (not the current mission on Traverse Connect)

d) Community Development Coalition of Northwest Michigan

Sullivan Discussed the Community Development Coalition of Northwest Michigan. Made up of regional organizations focused on improving economic, societal and environmental outcomes for Northern Michigan. Sullivan asked, what are resources the EDC has available and what can we be doing to help.

Colburn – Networks Northwest and the EDO, are all partnering
Hentschel – as things are and have been in the past, our relationship is similar to a Consultant. There is a need for a person representing Grand Traverse County, a consultant to work with townships businesses, work on developing and gathering information so we understand what is going on in the county.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws discussion will be held off until sometime next year per Sullivan and Hentschel

OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Forsyth reminded the board of a request from the Nov. 14, 2019 EDC meeting regarding default loans. The response from the board was requesting more information. Forsyth is working with Dean Bott to provide the information requested.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

MOVED by Minervini, seconded by Hentschel, to adjourn meeting.

YAYS Colburn, Klein, Minervini, Arouca, Hentschel, Morgan, Sullivan

NAYS

ABSENT Kern, Endres, Howe

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned 9:34 AM