Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Tom Klassa- **President Staff:** Joel Zimmerman-Executive Director

Ken Schultz- **Vice President** Whitney Korthof- Administrative Coordinator

Helen Perotti–**Treasurer**

Virginia Hurckman- **Secretary**

Bill Marx-Absent

Romaine Quinn

Jim Dohm

Chris Thompson

Kevin Pagorek-Absent

Ashley Beatty-Absent

Lance Ausing

1. Meeting Called to Order 7:31 a.m. @ Washburn County Economic Development Office by President Klassa.
2. Approval of Minutes of the April 16th, 2019 meeting. **Motion Schultz/Hurckman** to approve as printed. **Passed.**
3. Treasurer Report- Zimmerman gave report. Profit & Loss 1/01/19-5/31/19 indicates net year to date

-$7,914.35. WCIDA Consulting and County Funding will be coming in June. The CD matured and was added to the checking account. **Motion Thompson/Dohm** to approve as printed. **Passed.**

1. Correspondence received-emails about the banquet.
2. Membership comments-none.
3. Tourism Presentation to be moved to a future meeting
4. Hotel Feasability Study Funding- **Motion Schultz/Perotti** to not fund, but offer technical assistance. **Passed. Thompson abstained from vote.**
5. Contract between WCEDC and WCIDA- **Motion Hurckman/Dohm** to approve as printed. **Passed.**
6. Internship- The Board requested for Zimmerman to get more information regarding insurance liability and non-disclosure form. **Motion Thompson/Perotti** to pursue internship. **Passed.**
7. Nomination of Board Members- The Board is looking for nominations to represent Minong and Birchwood.
8. Election of Board Members- **Motion Ausing/Thompson** to Nominate and elect Hurckman. **Passed.**
9. Banquet Discussion – Zimmerman gave a recap of the 2019 Banquet.
10. Director’s Report-

* In the last year, the WCEDC has helped new and existing businesses obtain loans from the WCIDA for approximately $573,000.
* We held our third WCEDC Banquet, not only raising funds for our organization, but celebrating the accomplishments of businesses that exist and serve Washburn County. The banquet had 170 registrants and was the largest event to date.
* The WCEDC continues to offer workshops and seminars designed to assist new and existing business leaders on topics relevant to them, including social media marketing, leadership, tactical business planning and more. Attendance was down slightly this year. We are working on a schedule for the next season to include more instructors and partnerships with other organizations.
* We’ve increased our visibility in public through social media marketing, a larger more constant presence in the communities we serve, and through press releases.
* We continue to work on the broadband issue, which I’m happy to announce has been effective. By the end of this summer, 2436 rural households in the County will have higher speed internet available to them and a cheaper cost than they are paying now.
* The WCEDC has been invited to speak to various banking, municipal groups, chambers of commerce and educator groups this year to help educate on Washburn County economics and demographics, including calls from other County EDC’s to seek assistance in gaining insight into how we’re doing what we’re doing so well.
* We obtained a $5000 grant from Bank of the West to increase our programming and are in the process of obtaining another one this year.
* The WCEDC helped kick-off the school program, Inspire, in the region.
* We’ve also worked with other area EDCs to ask the State to better fit their programs to help small businesses in rural communities.
* We are working with the owners of the building Shopko occupies to find a new tenant. As of printing of this report, there is a very interested prospect and negotiations are underway.

1. Motion to convene in closed-no need
2. Reconvene in Open Session-no need
3. Other Concerns-none
4. NEXT MEETING DATE: **July 16th, 2019**
5. ADJOURNMENT **Motion Thompson/Quinn** to adjourn at 8:57 AM. **Passed.**