

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

West Square Building, Rm 213

505 Broadway Street, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Monday, June 02, 2014

Members present: Marty Krueger, Donna Stehling, Peter Vedro, Brian Peper, Nathan Johnson,

Members absent: Dennis Polivka, Dave Riek

Others present: Kathy Schauf, Andy Lewis, Jenny Erickson, Jim Allen

The meeting was called to order and certification of Open Meeting compliance was given at 6:30 p.m.

**The agenda was approved on a motion by Johnson, second by Stehling. Motion carried.**

**The meeting minutes from the prior meeting were approved on a motion by Stehling, second by Peper. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment** None

**Communications** None

### **Election of officers.**

**Motion by Peper, second Stehling, to nominate Polivka, for Vice-Chair. Motion by Stehling, second by Johnson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Polivka. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Peper, second Vedro, to nominate Stehling, for Secretary. Motion by Johnson, second by Peper to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Stehling. Motion carried.**

**Discussion and consideration of strategies for Sauk County Broadband with Jenny Erickson and Andy Lewis.** Discussion of need for broadband and increased need for ever greater connectivity and speeds. Information on broadband policies and regulations were distributed.

Future direction and strategies: The major obstacle is having willing providers to develop the service(s) in rural communities. Options:

Reduce barriers for private sector providers.

- Change legislation that makes it difficult for local governments to provide broadband.
- Cooperatives. Using existing Telco's or creating broadband cooperatives.
- Many gray areas in current legislation that encourages law suits that will oppose municipalities.
- Hold a broadband fair.
- Schedule meetings with providers. Question: What can we do to improve your ability to provide service? (List of contacts for providers)
- Setting up free WIFI hotspots in main street areas.
- Create policies to ensure that conduit is run when road construction projects are undertaken.

Next steps:

- Research:
  - Review map and provider network with Tim Stieve to verify fiber and gain an understanding of existing providers and current rental agreements.
  - LaValle Telephone Cooperative discussion to learn about alternatives.
- Research: Coverage of businesses / business community. Use of Broadband Assessment Tool. Will help determine bandwidth you need. Identifies providers. Business retention / expansion project to garner information.
- PSC Grant – investigate making application.
- Develop questions for providers for next meeting.

**Motion by Vedro, second by Peper to postpone the Discussion of Intergovernmental meeting of April 30, 2014 and “placemaking” to the next meeting.**

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Next meeting date will be June 26, 2014. Regular meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion by Johnson, second by Stehling, to adjourn. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Stehling

Economic Development Committee Secretary