



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President Lundstrom at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: President Lundstrom, Krueger, Nuesse, Sorenson, Thomes, Councilmember Pichelmann, Councilmember Ruehling

Member Absent: None

Also Present: EDA Director Smith-Strack

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Pichelmann, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda with the following addition:

7A) Fiber to the Home Update.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Ruehling, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the January 26th and February 22nd meetings as presented.

The February Financial Reports were reviewed. Dir. Smith-Strack commented that she has been working with a local manufacturer about expanding his business and had mentioned the various loan programs available through the EDA, Arlington Industries, etc. She noted that there was no money left within the Revolving Loan Fund and suggested transferring funds from the (undesignated) EDA Fund into the Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Krueger, and passed by unanimous vote to transfer funds from the EDA Fund to the Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion by Krueger, seconded by Pichelmann, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the February Financial Reports as presented.

The EDA reviewed a letter from the Prairie Line Trail Committee requesting a Letter of Support for the proposed trail system. Smith-Strack stated that the Committee was applying for a DNR Legacy Grant.

Motion by Krueger, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the EDA send a Letter of Support for the proposed trail system to the DNR for the Legacy Grant.

Discussion was held on the proposed new K-12 Sibley East School. Smith-Strack commented that the School was looking at 2 sites, with one being adjacent to Arlington city limits (Haupt property) and the other in Gaylord. She noted that the Gaylord EDA has offered to participate if

the Gaylord site is chosen and questioned if the Arlington EDA was interested in endorsing the Haupt site, and if so, to what extent. Pichelmann commented that the School Board would be making their decision on the site on April 5th. Ruehling commented that the EDA should endorse the Arlington site, but make it clear within the resolution that the EDA is not endorsing the referendum itself. Krueger commented that Arlington needs to be competitive. Pichelmann commented that he has been hearing that the Haupt property is the preferred site, even though it costs a little bit more.

Thomes introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

EDA RESOLUTION NO. 2-2011

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING CERTAIN PROPERTY NEAR ARLINGTON AS SITE FOR FUTURE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY

WHEREAS, the past and present residents of the communities of Green Isle, Gaylord, and Arlington have cooperated diligently to provide for the success of the Sibley East Public School District; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington Economic Development Authority (EDA) recognizes the fundamental link between quality education and quality of life crucial to a robust local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington EDA recognizes Sibley East Public School District is a major local employer, providing employment for teachers, administrators, and others; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington EDA recognizes Sibley East Public School District is a consumer of local professional services, supplies, and products; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington EDA recognizes Sibley East Public School District helps draw retail establishments to nearby locales; and

WHEREAS, the Sibley East Public School District has identified a potential K-12 school facility site abutting the Arlington Corporate Limits and partially within the City of Arlington/Arlington Township Orderly Annexation Area; and

WHEREAS, the potential site is approximately in the center of the school district; and

WHEREAS, the Arlington EDA has decided to formalize support for the "Haupt Site" as a preferred location for a potential K-12 public school facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arlington Economic Development Authority hereby formally endorses the "Haupt Site" as the preferred location for a potential K-12 school facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Arlington Economic Development Authority pledges to study the potential for participating financially in the extension of municipal utilities to the preferred site.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Sorenson and upon poll being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: Krueger, Lundstrom, Nuesse, Sorenson, Thomes, Councilmember Pichelmann, Councilmember Ruehling; and the following voted against the same: None; and the following abstained from voting: None; and the following were absent: None.

Adopted by the Economic Development Authority of the City of Arlington this 22nd day of March, 2011.

Signed: /s/ Mark Lundstrom
President

Attest: /s/ Cynthia Smith-Strack
EDA Director

Whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and executed.

Discussion was held on establishing a mission statement and setting goals based off the information contained within the 2010 Census (demographic and economic changes both locally and at the State level) and the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Smith-Strack commented that she was looking for some direction on where the EDA wanted to go. Thomes commented that he was leery about honing in on one subject; he would rather have a broader spectrum to work within and then as something comes along fine tune it at that time. Krueger agreed, but was concerned about being reactive versus proactive and losing strategic value. He talked about succession planning for local business owners. Nuesse commented that businesses/organizations can have many objectives and it's easier to hone in on certain subjects (create a mission there from). Smith-Strack asked the group how they would like to prioritize time spent discussing each of the following: Housing, Commercial and/or Industrial projects. Lundstrom commented that he was more comfortable being a reactive body and not concern himself with the 'big picture'/master plan at this time. Krueger commented that the EDA needs to be proactive to the point of having things in place for when the larger items come forth. Smith-Strack commented that the EDA needs to be forward thinking and looking toward the future. Thomes commented that some things are already happening despite the best efforts of the EDA. He stated that business owners make a decision to do something and then go looking for resources to help fund them. He added that the EDA Director is a valuable resource (a wealth of information) for business owners to have. It was agreed, that Smith-Strack would put together a list of very specific goals and send them out to the members for their input and then discuss them at the next meeting.

Krueger gave an update on the first (organizational) Fiber to the Home meeting that he attended as an alternate on the Committee. He stated that there is a strong driving force from the farming (non-city) community endorsing this project.

Krueger commented that he would like to discuss (at future meeting) what other regional entities such as SMIF, Region 9, SEDCO, etc. have to offer in conjunction with the Arlington EDA Loan programs.

Motion by Lundstrom, seconded by Pichelmann, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

President, Mark Lundstrom

Director, Cynthia Smith-Strack