

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

April 11, 2022 | 1 p.m.

Location: Board of Commissioners Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Member	Term Expires	Present/Absent
Tom Stanek, Chair	2/13/2027	P
Rodney Dragicevich, Vice Chair	2/13/2026	P
Carrie Troyer, Treasurer	3/13/2024	P
Zachary Morris, Secretary	2/13/2024	P
Daywi Cook, Board Member	2/13/2024	P
Jeff Hannan, Board Member	2/13/2024	
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Mike Toth, Board Member	2/13/2028	A

Others in attendance:

- Sarah Snoeyink, Programs and Projects Manager at Market Van Buren
- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Robert Smith, Career Education Planning District (CEPD) Administrator for Van Buren County
- Kurt Doroh, Van Buren County Commissioner

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the agenda. Daywi Cook supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dragicevich moved to approve the March 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Cook supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Priority of mortgages for 210 East Project

Zach Morris provided an overview of the current and proposed priority of mortgages for 210 East Project from Arbor Financial Credit Union. He said that Van Buren County will remain in the second position and Arbor Financial Credit Union will remain in the first and third positions. Discussion followed and the Board decided that the County Chair of Commissioners will have to sign the document and they will work with Mr. Frank Hardester, the County Administer to get the process moving. Mr. Dragicevich moved to

approve the process of having the County Chair of Commissioners sign the document and Jeff Hannan supported the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Issues

Review of Robert Smith's Board Application

Mr. Morris introduced Mr. Robert Smith to the EDC Board. Mr. Smith then introduced himself and gave a brief explanation on his background in education, his passion for Van Buren County, and his interest in joining the Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Dragicevich moved to approve Mr. Smith to the EDC Board. Mr. Hannan supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The final step is to get the approval from the County Commissioners.

Update on Going PRO's availability to municipalities

Mr. Morris followed up on a previous meeting's question on Going PRO's availability to municipalities. He said it is not available to units of government. The money is supposed to go to private sectors.

Palisades Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update on the Palisades Closing Project, which included sharing that the Economic Growth Institute (EGI) report will be finalized in May. Discussion followed about the importance of communicating this info to the public and the plant closure specialist that will be hired as part of the economic recovery initiative.

Broadband Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave a brief update regarding Broadband Expansion efforts. She discussed the last municipal meeting on broadband and that Van Buren County has hired DCS Technology Design to map the field for the next two months. Parcel by parcel mapping on broadband will be completed by the beginning of July 2022. She added that the local ISP's will partner with Van Buren County so they will not have to pay the full amount during this ongoing process. Discussion followed regarding how the community will be notified about this project. Ms. Snoeyink said that a press release has already been released and another announcement will go out when the mapping is complete.

Review Financial Reports

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update on the current revolving loan fund financial reports and provided an overview of efforts to bring delinquent loans current. Discussion followed regarding the County's efforts to develop an invoicing system and possible steps that could be taken to expedite that process, which included the idea of requiring ACH payments and sharing an outline of expectations at loan closing.

Update on Delinquent Loans and Next Steps

Mr. Morris provided an update on New Age Laboratories and RNS Packaging. Discussion followed regarding the ongoing conversations with both businesses, options to collect on loans including collection companies, and the desire to at least recover the loaned principle amount. General discussion continued around a need to improve this process/system. The

goal would be to spend less time chasing delinquent loans. Mr. Morris will work with the County Administrator to draft a letter to be sent to these businesses.

County Strategic Fund Update

Ms. Snoeyink announced that Entergy will be funding us for \$50,000. The vision for this money is going to be set aside for Palisades. Mr. Stanek asked if there is another way to invest in the funds if they end up not being used. Ms. Snoeyink said that she will ask the County Administrator what they are doing with the invested funds.

Other Issues

Ms. Cook announced that she is going to run for supervisor for Covert Township. Mr. Morris and Ms. Snoeyink updated the EDC Board on the business that is moving to Van Buren County. The business was called All Season Marine and has been sold to Gull Lake Marine.

Adjournment

Paul Schincariol moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. Mr. Morris supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2022 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

5-4-2022

Date