

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

September 12, 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	A
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Robert Smith, Board Member	2/13/2028	A
Mike Toth, Board Member	2/13/2028	P

Others in attendance:

- Sarah Snoeyink, Programs and Projects Manager at Market Van Buren
- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Theresa Smith from the PACE Program

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

A request by Zach Morris was made to move up line item 'H' (Update PACE Program) above line item 'A' (Palisades Update). The board agreed to adjust the order of these items in the agenda. Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve these items and the agenda. Daywi Cook supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the August 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Mike Toth supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

EDC Board Member Opening

Mr. Morris announced Robert Smith resigned from the board due to personal matters. With Mr. Smith's resignation, there is now a vacancy on the EDC Board.

Open Issues

Update PACE Program

Theresa Smith who is a part of the Ebee Management Group gave an update regarding the PACE program and specifically how it would affect commercial businesses in Van Buren County.

Discussion ensued following the presentation, a motion to recommend the PACE program to the Van Buren County Commissioners was made by Daywi Cook and Mr. Toth supported the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

Palisades Update

Sarah Snoeyink gave an update about the decommissioning process for Palisades. The NRC will be holding a public meeting regarding the decommissioning process for Palisades on September 22. This meeting will be an opportunity for the community to ask questions regarding the decommissioning process.

The Department of Energy will be coming to look at the plant to discuss future infrastructure plans during the first week of October. This will be a private meeting. On Friday, Governor Whitmer sent a press release announcing the effort to keep the plant open. Market Van Buren will continue to work as if the plant is closing down, working through an economic recovery plan with the community.

Broadband Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update on broadband. Market Van Buren will be holding the Van Buren County Internet Leadership Meeting on September 13 at 2:30 pm. DCS Technologies will give a presentation regarding the research compiled from the report done on broadband internet. Local municipal leaders have been invited to hear about the research and ask questions. DCS Technologies will also be presenting more research to the Board of Commissioners on September 13 at 1 pm.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Mr. Morris announced that Tri-Mation is working on an expansion project along with several other businesses that will be announcing their expansion plans in the coming months.

Review Financial Reports

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update on Blinkers Café and is waiting to hear back from the credit check individual.

Ms. Snoeyink has requested to see the loan reports from the county finance team for Mitaine restaurant who is currently behind on payments.

Next month, the loan for Sweet Bees should be paid off. They are continuing their operations in Paw Paw and also opening another business in Portage.

RLF Management: Overview of Lessons Learned & Next Steps

Ms. Snoeyink reaffirmed the excel program process she is working on with the county.

Delinquent Loan Update

Mr. Morris gave an update on the status working with attorneys to better understand our position regarding collateral.

County Strategic Fund Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding the County Strategic Fund. She said that \$2,000 is being approved through the State currently to be added to the fund by next month hopefully.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Cook moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Mr. Dragicevich supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2022 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

10-5-2022

Date