

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

October 3, 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
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	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
- Jodi Nilson, Economic Development Manager at Market Van Buren
- Kurt Doroh, Van Buren County Commissioner

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the September 12, 2022 meeting minutes. Daywi Cook supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Introduction of Economic Development Manager, Jodi Nilson

Zach Morris introduced Market Van Buren's newest staff member, Jodi Nilson. Ms. Nilson started last Monday as the Economic Development Manager and will be a vital role in retention and expansion efforts for businesses in Van Buren County.

Accept Jeff Hannan's Resignation

Mr. Morris announced that Jeff Hannan has put in his resignation from the EDC Board due to personal matters. The board voiced their appreciation for Mr. Hannan's time and effort on the EDC Board. With Mr. Hannan's resignation, there is now a second vacancy on the EDC Board.

Consideration of Stephanie Timmer's Application for Appointment

Mr. Morris announced that Stephanie Timmer from Sturgis Bank and Trust put in her application for the EDC Board. Ms. Timmer has a leadership role with Sturgis Bank and Trust and years of experience in banking which would help balance the skill sets of the EDC Board. Mike Toth moved to recommend Ms. Timmer to the EDC Board. Carrie Troyer supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The final step is to receive approval by the Van Buren County Commissioners.

Open Issues

Palisades Update

Sarah Snoeyink gave an update about the decommission process for Palisades. The NRC is looking at transportation options. Market Van Buren will continue to work as if the plant is closing down and is working through an economic recovery plan with the community.

Broadband Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update on broadband. The County has continued to move forward with DCS Technologies to develop a master plan for broadband internet expansion. This plan will outline the 12 to 20 individual project areas where expansion activities are needed to establish countywide broadband availability.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Mr. Morris announced that WDP in Mattawan is expanding. Market Van Buren was able to assist them and the Village of Mattawan with tax abatements.

RLF Financial Report – Sarah Snoeyink

Ms. Snoeyink gave a brief update regarding several businesses that have delinquent loans. She has been in communication with these businesses to remind them about their payments.

a. Delinquent Loan Update

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding the status of continuing to work with attorneys to better understand our position regarding collateral.

County Strategic Fund Update

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding the County Strategic Fund. The fund is seeing continued growth and progress.

Update PACE Program – Zach Morris

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding the PACE program. The Van Buren County Commissioners voiced majority support in their last meeting for the PACE program to be adopted in Van Buren County. Market Van Buren will write a resolution of support and present it to the Van Buren County Commissioners next Tuesday.

Adjournment

Mr. Dragicevich moved to adjourn the meeting at 2 p.m. Mr. Morris supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2022 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

11-23-2022

Date