Lamberton EDA Minutes

June 10, 2019 ● 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met in regular session in the city council room on June 10, 2019 with Board Members L. Sik, C. Stavnes, M. Bents, R. Arkell and L. Bittner present. Board Members B. Bartholomaus and C. Wetter were absent. Others in attendance were: Debbie Vollmer, Madonna Peterson, Brett Baumann, Steve Trachtenberg and Nicole Finch.

Chair Arkell called the meeting to order. On a motion by Stavnes, seconded by Bents the agenda was unanimously approved.

Bents moved, Sik seconded for unanimous approval of the May 13, 2019 EDA Board minutes.

Vollmer discussed the status of the EDA business loans. After the treasurer’s report was reviewed, Bittner moved, Stavnes seconded for unanimous approval.

Vollmer welcomed Brett Baumann to update the board on the status of Lamberton Meats. The Lamberton Meats EDA Loan is delinquent. Baumann and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are in the beginning stages of reviewing the business plan to possibly shift gears. The SBDC and Baumann are working on plan development gearing the business towards retail, so employees are not necessary. The overhead costs to conduct the butchering part of the business is no longer feasible. Baumann explained the organizational changes and timed goals that have been discussed. The Board encouraged the organizational changes.

Vollmer informed the board there is a party interested in purchasing land in the Industrial Park. She said the interested party is seeking 20-25 acres to construct a USDA Cold Storage Facility that will be used for cold storage, some cutting (but no slaughtering), and possibly a cannery. The facility would need access to both the rail and Highway 14. Deliberation of the Industrial Park infrastructure ensued.

Stephen Trachtenberg and Nicole Finch, Chasing Our Tails, Inc. introduced themselves as the interested party with a global view of their business and how Lamberton may fit into that. Stephen shared how his company will process animals from the farm to the retail store in both human and pet grade qualities. His business is growing throughout the SW Region of the state. He has acquired several locations to utilize the farm to retail store concept; however, there is a nationwide shortage of cold storage. Stephen said he would like to construct a 200,000 square foot cold storage facility with an opening date in 2021 if an agreement can be reached regarding the sale and development of EDA owned acreage located in the Industrial Park. He said the Lamberton Industrial Park could be a valuable location to his business because of the access to both a major highway and a railroad spur.

Due to time restraint, Chair Arkell called for a special meeting to continue with the agenda.

Sik moved, Bittner seconded to adjourn the meeting until 5:15 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2019. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Madonna Peterson, City Clerk