

MINUTES EDAP BOARD

OCTOBER 9, 2012

Chairperson Bruce Stang called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. Members present were Jean Soine, Chris Stanley, Don Pietsch, Gene Beavers, and Don Wiese. Also present were City Administrator, Renee Eckerly; Sheri Wegner, and Jeff Bertram (observing). Al Habben was absent.

Motion was made by Stanley to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2012 EDAP Meeting. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.

EDAP DIRECTOR/CTIY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

Beavers gave a verbal report and stated that Eckerly's contract is up for renewal. The Union Negotiations team received two recommendations from the PEP Committee:

1. Positions would remain the same.
2. Remove Eckerly as the EDAP Director and hire a separate person or group of people as the EDAP Director.

It was asked if a separate EDAP Director would be a full-time or part-time position. This has not been determined. The main reason behind replacing Eckerly is to put more time toward it; not that Eckerly is not doing a good job. Soine expressed that she is part of PEP Committee and this discussion did not come from them. There was some discussion whether there should be someone full-time right now with the opportunities for expansion and development that the City is facing.

The Township does not contribute to the EDAP Director position currently. The Township needs the EDAP Board for doing loans. The Township pays the City \$3,000.00 per year to manage the EDAP loans. The Township needs to have a board for them to process their loans. It is important to have a full-time Director at City Hall so when inquires come in there is a first point of contact.

The Board discussed how \$13,000.00 figure was achieved. The Board asked if they were doing enough. Stang thought that the Queen Bee's, Bakery, Nelson Plastics, and Stang Precision projects went well. As a group, it was asked, is the change going to make it better. It was asked if the goal is to bring in a new director and constantly pound the pavement.

Soine stated that this is not a good time to do this as the City has been offered to extend her contract for one year with no increases as there is a lot going on right now. If Council wants to hire a full-time Director that would be good, but EDAP does not have that information. The Board discussed if there was any discussion regarding the Township paying towards a Director. It is the Director's job to go out and recruit; not the Board. The person should be at City Hall every day. This is not a volunteer position; it's too important as the City expanding.

Stanley stated that Eckerly is doing a good job at what she does and he would not suggest the Board do anything at this time. This process started with the Union Negotiations Team as a concept. Stang stated that this should be discussed, but don't want to make a

recommendation and don't have an alternative. EDAP is doing a good job and Eckerly is doing a great job. Beavers stated that because three Council members present; he would step out and allow Bertram to speak.

(Beavers left at 7:35 a.m.)

The current person is doing a good job; it's the Council's decision on how they want to fill the position. Eckerly is doing a good job at what's being done unless the plan is for bigger and better. It was suggested to offer Eckerly a one year contract until more details are figured out. Stang explained the expansion he did. A company came to Stang to see if he could provide the space. Eckerly put a schedule together and walked him through the complete process. Stang's experience was very good. It was stated that something may be missing, but what are the alternatives. The Board agreed that EDAP needs somebody there at City Hall as the Director. If the plan is to hire a full-time dedicated Director; the Board would want to know who, the charge, and why.

Bertram reported that the idea was brought to the Union Negotiations Team by group of people. It is not a way to save money, but invest money.

Stearns Manufacturing was brought here by four people and Kevan McCarney. Stang brought Valley Industries and Nelson Plastics. These were nothing the City did. This idea has validity and that's why it was brought to EDAP. It will bring businesses, let's get the businesses to come, who cares who brings them here.

Making sure loans are current is the Board's decision. The cost will be about \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 for an EDAP Director. Want attention paid to the business community like Ellen Anderson did when she was the EDAP Director. The Board asked if there was any proof that a full time Director is better than a part-time Director position.

Eckerly has done a good job in facilitating. It was suggested to have this group work with Eckerly to facilitate for now and see if she can't keep up then bring in a new Director. There is a need to have someone out door knocking and tell businesses that EDAP is here. It was suggested to create a job description. This has nothing to do with saving money; it's just an idea.

The Trail and Stearns Manufacturing was done as a group. Pay Del Co – EDAP is pushing them to do something with the land. The original Industrial Park was created by a group of individuals.

Beavers returned at 7:50 a.m.

The Board discussed that there needs to be a contact and no secondary option to replace Eckerly was offered. The Board liked the group concept if it's the right people.

Motion was made by Stanley to leave as is for now and to re-evaluate over the next few months and to work with a group or until a new plan is presented and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Stang and unanimously carried.

(Stanley left at 7:58 a.m.)

INCUBATOR

This item as not discussed.

ECONOMIC STATUS

This item as not discussed.

PAST DUE LOANS

It was reported that Bloom Corner Floral is past due on their loan.

BLIGHTED PROPERTY ON MINNIE STREET - UPDATE

This item was not discussed.

REVOLVING LOAN REPORT

The Revolving Loan Report was reviewed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.