

FEBRUARY 11, 2015 WASHBURN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4:00 P.M. Washburn Public Library – Book Bin Room

Members Present: Rick M. Geisen, John Baregi, Taylor Pearson; Jon Wheeler

Members Absent: Peter Bremner; Christine Kelly, William D. Olson

Municipal Personnel Present: City Administrator Scott J. Kluver

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Geisen in the Book Bin Room of the Library at 4:05 p.m. It was noted that Council member Avol was in attendance.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2014** – Baregi moved and Pearson seconded to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015. Motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion on Potential Development/Redevelopment Projects in Washburn – Guests Invited** – Rocky Kavajecz was invited to attend, but had not yet responded to the request. Griffiths and Kluver did meet with the owner of Ehlers Store in Cornucopia. The result of that meeting is that Ehlers Store would put together a business plan and identify additional needs in order to consider starting an operation in Washburn. Consensus was obtained that another invitation should be sent to Rocky Kacajecz. If there is not response, a letter should be drafted to the current owners of the Inn at Washburn to open the door to discuss potential improvements to the property. Geisen has received several inquiries from individuals interested in starting a laundromat and is attempting to connect interested parties. Discussion are continuing with Jeff Langford and The Lakes health clinic regarding pharmaceutical services. Kluver met with New Horizons and the owner of the former hospital building to discuss potential renovation to accommodate additional staff needs.

**Discussion on Movin’ Out Presentation on Potential Housing Development Options** – Discussion occurred on the presentation that was given by Dave Porterfield of Movin’ Out at the recent City Council meeting. Basically, Movin’ Out is willing to investigate the possibility of a 24 unit housing complex in the City that would have six units for individuals with disabilities. They would need at least 2.5 acres of land zoned appropriately, and cooperation with other financial incentives that could be offered. The only available City-owned land would be the area that was recently purchased back from John and Anne Weinel. A discussion of the potential benefits and consequences of a development of this type occurred. Baregi moved and Wheeler seconded to support the concept of this potential development and encourage the Council to proceed with the next steps of considering the development at the proposed site. Discussion. It is understood the many details have to be discussed and negotiated. Motion carried 4-0.

**Update on Discussion with Chamber of Commerce Needs WDA Could Assist With** – Baregi had an informal meeting with some of the Chamber board members. The Chamber does have needs that they would like assistance with, some of them are financial. Discussion occurred on what types of projects//financial assistance would be appropriate for the WDA to provide. The Chamber is to put together a formal request for the WDA to consider.

**Future Agenda Item Topics** – Follow up on current issues. If Rocky K. is not able or willing to attend next meeting, prepare a letter for current owners at the Inn at Washburn.

**Adjourn** – Pearson moved and Baregi seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott J. Kluver  
Executive Director