



# COUNTY OF BECKER

## *Economic Development Authority*

915 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-1617  
218-846-7316  
website: [www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us)

### BECKER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2022

3:30 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room

Becker County Courthouse

**ATTENDEES:** Larry Knutson, Hank Ludtke, Karen Mulari, Sean Felker, Richard Vareberg

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Mary Hendrickson, Laura McKnight, Guy Fischer, Pat Oman, Robyn Beck, Steve Skoog, Eileen Smith and Kyle Moorhead (HOMETOWN Fiber), Jane Neubauer (PS4H), Annie Vigen (HS)

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Hank Ludtke called the Regular meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of Board Agenda** Motion by Felker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mulari, motion carried.
3. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve by Felker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mulari, motion carried.
4. **Consent Items: Check Registers/Paying Bills/Financials:** Motion to approve March Bills and Accept Financials by Knutson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mulari, - motion carried. Workshop \$1,002.31, Hwy 34 Group Home \$319.52, Low Income Public Housing \$10,187.39; Willow Property \$1,103.71; Maple Ave. Apts. \$7,051.25; Hidden Hills Group Home \$1,522.00, West River Townhomes \$27,156.08 and Section 8 Voucher \$20,248.00. Financials not ready – motion to table financials till April by Mulari, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson, motion carried.
5. **Housing Update** (motion to accept housing update by Mulari, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felker, motion carried)
  - **Public Housing** – No issues
  - **MURL Update:** Co. Hwy 21 cancellation served.
  - **WRT** - Full (no vacancies).
6. **Economic Development**
  - **Northwest MN Dental Collaborative Project (Jane Neubauer, PS4H, Annie Vigen BC HS)**
    - Increase dental utilization for MHCP enrollees by developing a new 14 chair clinic in Detroit Lakes.
    - Discussion of needs: 6, 491 Becker County residents who are low income are not receiving regular dental care; 1,400 currently access dental care through Norther Dental Access in Bemidji or Halstad; 800 people waiting list in Fergus Falls; most MHCP enrollees from Becker County receive their dental care outside the county.
    - Next Steps: 1) Community Engagement, 2) Site Exploration for Detroit Lakes Dental Clinic (some EDA discussion on site options/size needs: DL helping with the search, but the collaborative has already been looking in this area), 3) ID funding Opportunities.
    - Regional Goal: Additional 11,500 low income (MA/MN Care) enrollees receiving dental care per year at full capacity (45% increase) with IV sedation capabilities added.
    - Total 5 year budget \$7M-\$8M.
    - Planning Phase 2 Immediate Needs (June 2022) being requested - \$100,000 (budget detail broken down).
    - Would the County consider being a fiscal host – (if no one else will do it) develop resolution (directed at Administrator) for Board consideration.
    - Motion to move the Northwest MN Dental Collaborative Project process on for further review and consideration by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mulari, motion carried.

- **Broadband: Review of Recommendations Summary & Next Steps Projects**

- Next step tasks/project options; lowest cost option reviewed (\$3,000) would 1) develop criteria that:
  - Align with state goals and funding
  - Address technological obsolescence concerns
  - Recommend Language/concepts for policies that ensure accountability and transparency
- EDA members also reviewed the other two options referenced: 2) Plan to maximize investment funds (\$31,817) and 3) Developing Design Guidelines for customized broadband architecture (\$49,300) were deemed too expensive to consider.
- Some discussion about existing funding for broadband at State level and finding out more about availability. Also fixed wireless options (Oman).

**Staff/consultant recommendation for the EDA to pause proposals received and reassess options provided prior to considering public funding. Motion to table by Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mulari, motion carried.**

7. **Balance Sheet – Budget to Actual; Motion to approve Balance Sheet only by Mulari, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Felker, motion carried.**
8. **EDA Board – Open Forum/Announcement: EDA staff will be retiring as of April 29<sup>th</sup>.**
9. **Adjournment (4:45 p.m.)**

**ATTEST:**

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Guy Fischer  
EDA Coordinator

/s/ Hank Ludtke  
EDA Board President