

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Monday, February 8, 2016 beginning at 6:30pm.

Commissioners Present: Sally Swanson, Greg Isaacson, Dan Lee, and Bruce Swenson.

Staff Present: Neil Soltis.

Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Motion by Swenson, seconded by Lee to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Isaacson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

No one was present for the public forum.

**Resolution of support for Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority** –

Barb Dacy, Executive Director of the Washington County Housing Redevelopment Authority provided the background on the process which has led to the decision to seek to expand the role to include economic development and to convert the HRA into a Community Development Authority. For this to occur action would be needed to be taken by the Minnesota legislature. The goals of the CDA would be to function as a hub for County economic development activities, to support and compliment the economic development activities of the municipalities, and to maintain the current level of control by the County Board over the levy authorization. If approved funds are available in the 2016 levy to hire an Economic Development Director and to begin the process of establishing policies and procedures and that additional funds would be anticipated in the 2017 budget.. In response to questions, Dacy noted that the goal of the CDA is not to pick winners or losers but to support the local efforts and that the role in tourism development has not yet been determined. County Commissioner Fran Miron commented on the need to get legislative support for the change and that the CDA efforts would be targeted at complimenting the current efforts of Washington County communities. In responding to questions Miron noted that the potential negative of the change could be an increase in the County levy. Dacy requested the EDA approve a resolution supporting the change. Motion by Swenson, seconded by Lee to approve resolution 02-08-16-01 supporting the proposed legislation to authorize the County of Washington to confer economic development powers upon the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried.

**Update on 2016 goals and work plan** – The members reviewed the 2016 priority tasks of seeking funding for physical improvements to buildings, finding funding for entryway beautification, and increasing awareness and marketing of the City. Soltis reported on the changes that have been made to the City's website to list commercial and mixed use building and land for sale or lease. Soltis also reported on the Planning commission recommendations to reclassify a number of uses in the Village Mixed Use zoning districts from conditional to

permitted. Approval of the ordinance establishing the changes will be before the Council at the February 16 meeting.

**Treasurer's report** - The Commissioner Lee noted that there was no change in the EDA funds with \$5,396.10 available. .

**Executive Director Report:** Soltis reported that the Forest Lake times was seeking information on local business and economic development advancements of the last year. The Commissioners felt that the remodeling of the Scandia Hair office would be an appropriate story. The Commissioners also discussed the existing businesses, the length of time the businesses have operated in Scandia, recognizing those businesses and possibly holding an open house so the community can meet the business owners.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Isaacson to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Neil Soltis, Secretary