

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Monday, February 10, 2014 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Tom Triplett, Dan Lee, Bruce Swenson, Sally Swanson, Greg Isaacson. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Swanson.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Triplett to approve the January 13, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Handt introduced Bill Coleman. Coleman provided some background on the work he had done with the Blandin Foundation, mostly in rural areas. Even though Scandia is in the 7 county metro area, Blandin was convinced of our rural nature and awarded the application for technical assistance. Coleman provided maps from connectmn.org showing internet coverage in Scandia. The commissioners questioned the validity of the maps as they showed areas with Midcontinent service they knew did not exist. Coleman also provided information on wireless internet providers. The state goal is 10mb/download, 5mb/upload. Midcontinent service meets those goals but Frontier which covers more of the city does not. Coleman suggested the EDA gather data from individuals in the community about their internet service and use it in discussions with the providers. Coleman will provide sample questions after the meeting. An article will also be written for the spring newsletter and the local papers to help get the word out.

The commissioners reviewed the list of businesses in Scandia. They discussed beginning with businesses that have a storefront in Scandia, as opposed to home businesses, when completing a BRE. Swanson volunteered to compile the list of businesses before the next meeting.

Commissioner Reports: Swanson commented on the success of Vinterfest and the need to ask businesses how they want to be involved in the community. The commissioners discussed the possibility of creating a subcommittee to gain more business representation.

Handt provided a verbal update: Washington County Economic Development Work Group continues to meet; Liz Templin provided follow up on tourism program and bicycling info from last meeting; Handt met with Washington County HRA staff to discuss ways to work together.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:30pm to review survey questions for Broadband and the BRE.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Lee to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristina Handt, Secretary