

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Monday, April 14, 2014 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Tom Triplett, Bruce Swenson, Sally Swanson, Greg Isaacson and Dan Lee. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

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

Motion by Lee, seconded by Swenson to approve the March 3, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Colette Jurek and Michael Mayerchak from Xcel Energy introduced themselves again. Mayerchak went over a power point presentation that showed an area around Oren/Ogilvie, Novak/236/237th, Pilar/Perkins and north to 240th that could include 100 homes. If 80 homes agreed to connect by the May 15th deadline, each would pay \$4,550 up front then their service connection charges at the time of construction. The remaining shortfall would be financed with a \$25/month charge for the next 15 years. In the future if new homes wanted to connect they would also have to pay the \$4,550 charge and connection fees. This could shorten the 15 year surcharge period. If 80 people commit by May 15th, construction could begin this fall. Mayercheck offered to hold neighborhood meetings, draft a letter to be sent to folks and sit down with people to look at their specific property costs. Xcel is not aware of any grant funding to help. They will allow folks to pay by credit card. Mayercheck will have a letter out by Friday that residents can use when talking to their neighbors.

Board reviewed the draft BRE survey and discussed business listings. Motion by Lee, seconded by Swenson to approve BRE Survey, business listings, and assign businesses to Commissioners. Motion carried. Isaacson will choose nine businesses and send the list to Handt who will assign the rest of the businesses to commissioners. A press release will be drafted explaining the BRE. Triplett also suggested all ask the same verbal question when picking up the survey. Commissioners will ask what the business' most important concern is and what the EDA can do to have the greatest impact.

Board reviewed the County's Economic Development Work Plan. Triplett noted that there seemed to be a lack of focus on housing costs and how that impacts economic development.

The Board discussed the Rural Center and Diversified Rural classifications under the Thrive 2040 plan and expressed interest in holding a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and inviting a Met Council rep to provide more information.

Commissioner Reports: Swanson mentioned the League of Local Governments meeting and the networking value she saw in it.

Handt provided a verbal update: over 100 survey responses to the broadband survey so far. Providers and residents are invited to the May 12th meeting.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 12, 2014 at 6:30pm to review Broadband survey responses and progress on BRE surveys.

Motion by Swenson, seconded by Isaacson to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristina Handt, Secretary