

The Scandia Economic Development Authority met in the Board Room at the Scandia Community Center on Monday, January 13, 2014 beginning at 6:30pm. Commissioners Present: Tom Triplett, Dan Lee, Bruce Swenson. Late: Sally Swanson (7:46pm). Absent: Greg Isaacson. Staff Present: Kristina Handt.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Vice President Triplett.

Motion by Lee, seconded by Swenson to approve the December 9, 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

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

Handt introduced Liz Templin from U of M Extension. Templin provided a handout of her PowerPoint presentation to the commissioners. The EDA members introduced themselves and Templin explained Extension's role. Highlights of the presentation included that most jobs come from existing businesses, 76% of businesses in the 55073 and 55047 zip codes have 1-2 employees indicating a high number of home-based businesses, and access to broadband may be an issue but funding is available through the Blandin Foundation for technical assistance. Templin went over the components of a full BRE like was done in Forest Lake but also offered other BRE options such as online training and scaled down versions that just include some components. Templin also covered other Extension programs such as e-marketing, webinars, Market Area Profile and Tourism Program (\$5,000). Templin asked for feedback from commissioners on the info she presented. Triplett commented on focusing on the top 17 businesses with the most employees, bicycle/tourism, and e-marketing. Swenson liked the e-marketing and making Scandia a tourist destination. Lee favored the broadband assistance, tourism and e-commerce.

Swanson arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Swenson, seconded by Lee to direct staff to complete the Blandin Broadband application. Motion carried.

Motion by Triplett, seconded by Lee to approve Resolution 1-13-14-01 Naming Official Depositories. Motion carried.

The commissioners discussed priorities and projects for the coming year. Handt asked each commissioner to list their top three. Lee: e-marketing, mini-BRE, Gateway Trail. Swenson: tourism/marketing/maps, e-marketing, broadband access. Swanson: BRE, e-marketing, TH 97 zone. Triplett: workforce housing, zoning changes for housing, broadband access. Cumulative results were as follows (alphabetical listing for those with the same ranking):

1. E-marketing
2. Broadband Access

2. mini-BRE
4. Tourism (includes maps and Gateway Trail)
5. TH 97 Zone
5. Workforce Housing
5. Zoning Changes for Housing

The next meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:30pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristina Handt, Secretary