

# Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

February 6, 2023 | 1 p.m.  
Location: Board of Commissioners Chambers

## Meeting Minutes

### Roll Call

| Member  | Term Expires  | Present/Absent |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Tom Stanek, Chair                                       | 2/13/2027     | P              |
| Rodney Dragicevich, Vice Chair                          | 2/13/2026     | P              |
| Carrie Troyer, Treasurer                                | 3/13/2024     | P              |
| Zachary Morris, Secretary                               | 2/13/2024     | P              |
| Daywi Cook, Board Member                                | 2/13/2024     | P              |
| Kurt Doroh, Board of Commissioners Representative       | BOC Appointed | P              |
| Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative     | BOC Appointed | P              |
| Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative | BOC Appointed | P              |
| Stephanie Timmer, Board Member                          | 2/13/2028     | P              |
| Mike Toth, Board Member                                 | 2/13/2028     | P              |

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Suzie Roehm, Van Buren County Clerk

### Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the meeting agenda. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the January 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### New Business

#### *Swearing in of EDC Board Members*

Suzie Roehm gave the oath of office to the EDC Board Members.

#### *New EDC Board Member: Welcome Kurt Doroh*

Zach Morris introduced Kurt Doroh, a Van Buren County Commissioner as a new member of the EDC Board.

## **Open Issues**

### *Palisades, Broadband Update*

Zach Morris gave an update about the decommissioning process for Palisades. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners voted to issue a letter of support for the repowering of the plant. The City of South Haven, South Haven Township, Covert Township, and the Van Buren County Conservation District all asked to consider writing letters of support as well.

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding broadband. Market Van Buren is working with Chris Scharrer from DCS Technologies to coordinate local support for the ROBIN grant applications. They will present projections for allocations for each ISP at the next Board of Commissioners meeting. The goal is for formal commitments to be made by the Board of Commissioners by February 28.

### *Financial Update*

Mr. Morris gave a brief update regarding the Revolving Loan Fund and the County Strategic Fund.

#### *a. Revolving Loan Fund*

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding a few delinquent loans. The Board members voiced concerns about the delinquent loans and suggested continuing to email the delinquent businesses along with a monthly invoice reminder. The conversation moved to RNS Packaging. Mr. Morris asked for a motion to approve the amending of an original agreement with RNS Packaging. Kurt Doroh moved to approve the amendment. Mr. Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. This amendment will be taken to the Board of Commissioners at their next meeting.

#### *b. County Strategic Fund*

Mr. Morris has been working with the state on reporting for the program. This will grow the County Strategic Fund deposit for this quarter.

### *Community Grant Development Update*

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding community grant developments. Market Van Buren hosted a Grant Workshop last month to prepare community leaders for forthcoming grant opportunities. The Van Buren County Land Bank has received another \$500,000 for blight elimination. They are still developing a rollout plan but the goal is to use the full \$500,000 on projects within Van Buren County. Market Van Buren will be holding the Annual Municipal Summit in March to educate municipal leaders on community development opportunities and grants.

### *Van Buren County Economic Development Review*

Mr. Morris gave a brief update regarding economic development. Zach Morris explained the Regional Pilot Program. This program could allow Market Van Buren to attain more resources that could help with projects like site development and other BR&E efforts by joining with other local economic development organizations in a regional effort to utilize funds. Discussion continued regarding concerns from other local economic development

organizations and questions board members had about the details and contents of this program. The board agreed that Mr. Morris needs to provide more details about this program and bring it back to the board before a decision to move forward or not is made.

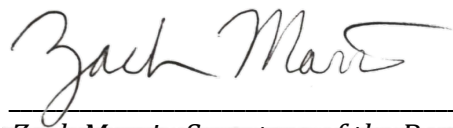
*PACE Program Update*

Mr. Morris said there are no recent updates for this month.

**Adjournment**

Paul Schincariol moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Rodney Dragicevich supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2023 at 1 p.m.



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*Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board*

3-8-2023

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*Date*