

# Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

June 5, 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	A
Mike Toth, Board Member	2/13/2028	P

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Lorna Nenciarini, Van Buren County Finance Director

### Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Zach Morris requested adding an additional item under the Community Grant Development Update: RAP Grant Letter of Support. Paul Schincariol moved to approve the meeting agenda with the additional item. Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Kurt Doroh moved to approve the May 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Paul Schincariol supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### New Business

*MDARD Grant: Residential Target Market Analysis (TMA)*

Zach Morris requested that the EDC Board and The Van Buren County Commissioners support a letter of intent for the Rural Readiness Funding Grant. Many local businesses would like to expand but need new housing developments to grow and expand. The grant would be \$50,000. Van Buren County would have to match this grant at \$50,000 to help

fund the studies for the grant. Mr. Stanek asked what the study would entail and what the end product of the Rural Readiness Funding Grant would be. The EDC board asked for sample reports before the next meeting and a presentation from Sharon Woods to better explain the Rural Readiness Funding Grant studies.

## **Open Issues**

### *Palisades, Broadband Update*

Mr. Morris gave an update about the decommissioning process for Palisades. Everything is moving in the right direction and there are no other updates at this moment.

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding broadband. Progress is continuing and there are no official updates to make at this time. More reports should come out in July and there will be a chance for public comment after the update in July.

### *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 about the refinance agreement with the County and delinquent loans. Mr. Morris introduced Lorna Nenciarini, the new Van Buren County Finance Director. She has been a great help to the Market Van Buren staff with navigating payment records and researching new programs. Ms. Nenciarini said that they are investigating a new tool to better track the loan program called BS&A. Market Van Buren will continue to assist her with this research.

Mr. Morris announced that the RNS Packaging refinancement is moving forward.

#### *b. County Strategic Fund*

Mr. Morris gave an update about the County Strategic Fund. Pending Ms. Nenciarini's review and approval, we should expect an increase of approximately \$9,000 to the strategic fund from backlogged transfers.

### *Community Grant Development Update*

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding community grant developments. The Blight Grant is moving forward and the Van Buren County will be receiving \$500k in late August. The RAP 1.0 Grant is also moving forward, so the Lucky Wolf in Paw Paw will begin construction on the outdoor patio and make indoor vendor improvements. Daywi Cook gave an update and said Covert's project should be accomplished by next year. Mr. Morris requested the board to approve a proposed letter of support for Rap Grant 2.0. This letter will indicate support of a subgrant approach and the intention to continue to support related economic development efforts. Mr. Doroh made a motion to approve the proposed letter of support for Rap Grant 2.0. Mr. Peat supported the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

*Van Buren County Economic Development Review*

Mr. Morris gave a brief update regarding economic development. No updates at this time.

**Adjournment**

Randy Peat moved to adjourn the meeting at 2 p.m. Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2023 at 1 p.m.



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*Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board*

9-11-2023

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*Date*