

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

March 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	A
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

Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

A request by Zach Morris was made to add in line item 'E' (Letter of Support Robin Grant Application) to the March Meeting Agenda. Tom Stanek moved to approve the new item and the agenda. Daywi Cook supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Tom Stanek and Rodney Dragicevich noticed that Sarah Snoeyink's name was used incorrectly within the Palisades, Broadband Update section instead of Zach Morris' name. Julia Wall noted this mistake and has correctly updated the February Meeting Minutes. Mr. Dragicevich moved to approve the February 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Stephanie Timmer supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Open Issues

Palisades, Broadband Update

Mr. Morris gave an update about the decommissioning process for Palisades. The Department of Energy application for a loan has been submitted by Holtec. Market Van

Buren is waiting to hear back on the approval of the submission. Market Van Buren is working closely with Holtec on the application.

Zach Morris gave an update regarding broadband. Market Van Buren is still working alongside DCS Technologies to coordinate local support for the ROBIN grant applications. The ROBIN applications should cover 92% or more of the unserved parcels. Covert Township was the first township to commit to matching funds.

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 a few delinquent loans. The refinance agreement with the County was approved by the Van Buren County Commissioners. Market Van Buren should have it closed by the April EDC Board Meeting. Market Van Buren has a meeting with Coin Express to discuss concerns and a plan of action with their team.

b. *County Strategic Fund*

Mr. Morris said that approximately \$1,125 have been approved and transferred to the County Strategic Fund. Another \$1,200 will be approved and transferred by the end of March. This will help prepare us with funds for upcoming projects.

Discussion followed among the board members about how these funds can be used in the future to help grow business in Van Buren County. The board also requested that Market Van Buren staff continue developing an outline on what these funds could be spent on in the future.

Community Grant Development Update

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding community grant developments. The main focus has been on the ROBIN grant. The other focus is to update local municipality leaders on three other programs, including The Redevelopment and Placemaking (RAP) grant, The Public Gathering Space Initiative grant, and the MI Arts & Culture Council grant. The RAP grant is going through round two. The Public Gathering Space Initiative grant can be applied for by municipalities, townships, and businesses that are in a qualified downtown space. The MI Arts & Culture Council grant supports arts in public spaces, like murals.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Mr. Morris gave a brief update regarding economic development. A few expansions are coming up that include Burnette Foods and Ralph Moyle Inc. Next week, Mr. Morris will be meeting with several food processors within the community to potentially expand the food processing industry in the area.

Letter of Support- Robin Grant Application

Mr. Morris asked for Mr. Stanek's approval and authorization to sign the support letter for the Robin Grant Application. Mr. Dragicevich made the motion to approve and authorize Mr. Stanek to sign the support letter. Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Stephanie Timmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 p.m. Daywi Cook supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2023 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

4-3-2023

Date