

# Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

May 6, 2024 | 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
Zachary Morris, Secretary	2/13/2024	P
Daywi Cook, Board Member	2/13/2024	P
Kurt Doroh, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Randall Peat, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	P
Paul Schincariol, Board of Commissioners Representative	BOC Appointed	A
Stephanie Timmer, Board Member	2/13/2028	P
Mike Toth, Board Member	2/13/2028	A

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Courtney Michalka, Community Development Manager at Market Van Buren
- Lisa Ransler, Van Buren County Community Services Director

### Call to Order

Tom Stanek, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Daywi Cook moved to approve the March 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Open Issues**

### *Palisades, Broadband Update*

Mr. Morris and Daywi Cook said that the DEA held an official public announcement and celebration regarding the plant's reopening. Ms. Cook said the loan has been offered and there are a few things we are waiting on. The plant has started the hiring process, so all signs are positive regarding an official reopening. The plant could be open as soon as the fall of 2025.

There are no recent changes regarding broadband. We are currently advocating that Mercury Broadband give up some of their territory which would allow for other companies to use the BEAD program to help fill those areas,

### *Financial Update*

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

#### *a. Revolving Loan Fund*

##### *New Age Laboratories – Consideration of loan agreement*

Mr. Morris is continuing to work with the attorney regarding New Age Laboratories. We should know more within the next month on the progress with this loan.

Courtney Michalka gave a brief update on the other business loans. She feels like we are getting a handle on communication and following up with businesses regarding their loans and late fees.

##### *Loan Prospects*

Mr. Morris says there may be several projects we could consider regarding loan prospects.

#### *b. County Strategic Fund*

We are working on moving over around \$10,000 to the fund, but waiting for state approval.

Mr. Stanek asked about the progress on the rough draft document. Mr. Morris will work with staff and Lisa Ransler and have something finalized to bring to the Board of Commissioners to adopt in August.

### *Community Grant Development Update*

Courtney Michalka gave an update regarding community grant updates. She has submitted several grants over the last month or so. She has also been meeting with village managers and township supervisors throughout the community to see what they are needing/lacking and how we can help.

### *Van Buren County Economic Development Review*

Mr. Morris presented the quarterly Stakeholder Update from January-March of 2024.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Cook moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 p.m. Mr. Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024 at 1 p.m.

  
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*Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board*

6-3-2024

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*Date*