

Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

November 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	A

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Katie Multhauf, Economic 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 1:03 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Kurt Doroh moved to approve the meeting agenda. Rodney Dragicevich supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Rodney Dragicevich found a typo with his name from the September meeting minutes. Rodney Dragicevich moved to approve the September 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Open Issues

Palisades, Broadband Update

Zach Morris gave a brief update regarding Palisades. The process to reopen Palisades is still moving smoothly and the power purchasing agreement has gone through with Wolverine Electric.

Zach Morris gave a brief update regarding broadband. There are no new updates since the September Meeting.

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 is working to amend the agreement with New Age Laboratories. Market Van Buren is continuing to work on a process with the Van Buren County Finance Department to notify delinquent individuals regarding late payments. Paul Schincariol recommended we review the current policy and make it an official document. The rest of the board agreed, so Market Van Buren will present the official policy at the January 2024 EDC Board meeting. Mr. Morris said he will also look into the details of the CBDG loan renewal.

b. *County Strategic Fund*

Mr. Morris said that the County Strategic Fund is just over \$100,000. The board had a few questions regarding the revenue interest within the fund. Market Van Buren will work to answer these questions soon and finalize a list of how the funds can be used within the next three months.

Community Grant Development Update

Mr. Morris gave an update regarding community grant developments. The Rap 2.0 grant was approved along with the MDARD and Rural Readiness grant. Market Van Buren is hoping to get the contract approved with the state and the housing project started. Carrie Troyer announced that Three Blondes Brewing was awarded an additional grant from the Economic Growth Institute.

Van Buren County Economic Development Review

Katie Multhauf announced that an expansion project with Spencer Manufacturing in South Haven is beginning. She will reach out to the board when the ribbon cutting date is announced. There is a possibility for more expansion projects within the next year. Ms. Multhauf shared about the new MDARD Wastewater Infrastructure Fund Grant coming from the state and her recent visit with MDARD and the MEDC.

Adjournment

Rodney Dragicevich moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Zach Morris supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2023 at 1 p.m.



Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

12-4-2023

Date