

# Van Buren County Economic Development Corporation

September 11, 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	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	P

Others in attendance:

- Julia Wall, Economic Development Coordinator at Market Van Buren
- Sarah Snoeyink, Programs and Projects Manager 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 1:01 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

Randy Peat moved to approve the August 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Rodney Dragicevich supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Open Issues

#### *Palisades, Broadband Update*

Sarah Snoeyink gave a brief update regarding Palisades. The NRC held a meeting last week discussing the path to reopening. The Economic Growth Institute released data about the effect of the Palisades closure and will be hosting a discussion with local leaders. Market

Van Buren is having conversations with New Growth to see how we can fund these projects.

Sarah Snoeyink gave a brief update regarding broadband. MEC has heard from the state that they will need to start drafting agreements for payments. Final award announcements should be released by the end of the month.

#### *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 with the Finance Department to work on an amended agreement with New Age Laboratories.

A few businesses are delinquent, so Ms. Snoeyink is working on a more efficient system with the Finance Department in notifying clients on monthly invoices.

*b. County Strategic Fund*

Sarah Snoeyink said there are no updates at this time. There is an admin approval request for the state waiting to be approved.

#### *Community Grant Development Update*

Ms. Snoeyink gave an update regarding community grant developments. Market Van Buren is waiting for the MDARD grant approval at the end of this month. If our application is rejected, we do have the opportunity to resubmit the application.

We are in preliminary discussions regarding the Housing and Urban Development Grant in South Haven.

#### *Van Buren County Economic Development Review*

Mr. Morris said that Market Van Buren is working with a few companies in South Haven to work on their tax abatements. W.R. Grace is looking to expand.

#### **Adjournment**

Mike Toth moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Randy Peat supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The October meeting has been canceled due to lack of agenda and several members being out of town. The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2023 at 1 p.m.



---

Zach Morris, Secretary of the Board

11-15-2023

---

Date