

Town of Presque Isle
Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes, Tues. 1.30.2018 2:30PM
Location: Town Board Room

- I. Call to order by President Bonnie Byrnes at 2:32pm. Present were committee members: Bonnie Byrnes, Brenda Dyre, Chuck Hayes, Sarah Johnson, Beth Marohn, Mary Watkins, Christine Wolter; and Town Liaison Carl Wolter.
- II. Recognition of guests: Barry McLeane, Vilas EDC; Scott McPherson, PI Chamber, and Presque Isle Citizens, Steve and Debbie Smith.
- III. A motion to approve the agenda as posted was made by Christine, second by Brenda. All aye.
- IV. A motion to approve the minutes of 10/26/17 meeting made by Christine, second by Chuck. All aye.
- V. Chair Remarks: Bonnie welcomed new member Mary Watkins. Mary shared that she is/has been owner to a couple small businesses and served as volunteer event chair for Peoria, IL "Take Pride in Peoria" event.
- VI. New Business:
 - A. **Appointed Committee Members** - Tabled, awaiting direction from Marshall. We had 2-year terms in our Bylaws (believe we may need to switch to 3), and there may be additional term changes.
 - B. **Finance Report** - Approved 2 expenditures for final attempt/trip to the Dells to meet with DNR Secretary, Dan Meyer. \$244.19 to Scott McPherson, Mileage Reimbursement at 2018 federal rate. \$30.00 to Sarah Johnson, Meals Reimbursement at State rate (X3: Bonnie, Sarah, Scott).
- VII. Old Business
 - A. **Downtown Planning:** The EDC request for \$10,000 to pay for Ayres & Associates consultation for downtown design/planning is in front of Room Tax Committee. If approved, their recommendation will be sent to the Town Board for March meeting approval consideration.
 - A. Vilas County Highway Department still has not heard on STP (Stormwater Management) funding that is an essential part of the Main Street redo scheduled for 2020 (road from bank to PI Pub). The Vilas Hwy Commissioner will contact Brenda when he hears.
 - B. Sarah contacted Vilas Hwy Commissioner to assure guidelines/additional projects for downtown improvements during Main Street redo in 2020 (i.e. curb & gutter, lighting, signage) could be incorporated and he confirmed these could be (design + funding would have to be in place).
 - B. **Broadband Grants/SonicNet** - More information on CenturyLink plan/progress is being understood, and sounds like they are almost done with upgrades (just

did Annabelle & Lynx). In order to pursue summer broadband grant, need to understand who still doesn't have service and how the upgrades are working.

C. Panfish Project | Sec. Meyer Visit - The visit and ask went as well as can be expected. Secretary Meyer open to the idea, recognized win-win, and will talk with Dept of Agriculture. He will let us know within 3 weeks if the project is a go. Also discussed: Legion's and white pier (Team Retreat) by Pipke Park = handicapped accessible. Would want to assure fishing piers in good shape, accessible, equipment options, etc...

D. Resource Report -

A. Connect Communities Program - Christine will work to invite other town board members that are engaged in program to hear how it is making an impact (BJ or MW).

B. Community Development Block Grant - This grant may be fitting for certain aspects of the downtown planning project, up to \$500,000 with a match (mix of cash and inkind). Grant is due May 2018 and would be a big deal (possibly need paid grant administrator, with salary to be covered by grant). Phelps may have received this - Steve Duyon, Town Chair would be contact. Sarah will continue to look into eligibility and to research further.

VIII. **Public Comment:** Barry McLeane from Vilas EDC informed the committee that the next Vilas EDC meeting is Fri., February 9 from 9am-12pm in Eagle River.

IX. **Next Meeting** - Tues., February 27 2:30pm.

X. **Adjournment** - Sarah made a motion to adjourn. Chuck second. All aye. Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.