

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting on August 16, 2022
(This meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 7/18/22
5. Public Input
6. DCEDC update
7. Attainable Housing
8. Broadband Update
9. 2023 Budget Request
10. Correspondence
11. Future meeting
12. Adjourn

Chair John Lowry called the meeting to order at 6:19pm. Committee members Andrew Gantman, and Dave Studebaker were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Doug Curzon and 1 member of the public. Committee member Chuck Scheckel was absent.

Lowry moved, Gantman second to approve the agenda as posted. Carried 3-0.

Studebaker moved, Gantman second to approve the 7/18/2022 minutes as presented. Carried 3-0.

Public – Janet Johnson, Humbug Road requested the committee restart the discussion regarding a food truck court. Sister Bay is creating an ordinance to regulate food trucks. Food trucks are beneficial to the community and are self-sufficient. The court location would only require a toilet with hand washing station.

DCEDC Update – Michelle Lawrie, Director, indicated there will be a reception in late September as well as the developer tour. She has submitted a grant application which would allow DCEDC to work the WEDC and UW-Madison to conduct a study to identify all items inhibiting or promoting Economic Development north of Sevastopol. She reiterated that ADA has declined the modular proposal.

Attainable Housing – Several house plans were reviewed. Gantman identified the cost, best utilization of the property, builders, and organization/individuals to assist in funding builds need to be determined. DCHP has completed their first house and the purchaser will need to qualify for a \$139,000 mortgage. Lowry noted all of the plans received are over 1,000 sq. ft. Studebaker identified \$300 per sq. ft. as the most recent build estimate he heard. Lawrie noted DC Community Foundation is in the beginning stages of their \$3,000,000 WHEDA project. She requested the committee identify if the focus should be rental or ownership. Lawrie volunteered to contact NWTC for partnering opportunities, Portside Builders for plans, DCHP for the process of the current home and their financial capacity, and the Village Sister Bay for a status update on their housing project.

Broadband Update – Studebaker reported the make ready is complete and construction has started on the pilot project; this is expected to be done by the end of this construction season. The Town and Nsight are working on separate agreements for the pilot and Town-wide projects. Nsight has recommended FARR for the engineering design and the Town is working on the

agreement with FARR and it could be \$30,000 less if it can start by 9/5/2022. Bertram (DCB) is actively selling fiber connections within the Town. These are line-of-sight wireless connections between towers that are distributed over fiber to homes. Committee member Alan Kroll arrived at 7:01pm. It was the consensus that individuals will need to make their own decisions to accepting this service. Studebaker indicated active networks are more 50% expensive than passive networks, and they're not justifiable for small users. Gantman reiterated his concerns of who is going to own the system after the Town has paid for it. Kroll asked if a hybrid system has been considered for densely populated areas. Studebaker plied that this would not provide equal service throughout the Town.

2023 Budget – The 2023 budget draft was reviewed, and the following items were noted:

- DCEDC membership decrease to \$5,800 (\$3.29 per capita).
- 501(c)3 audit would only apply if funds were collected on behalf of the Town.

Correspondence – None.

The next meeting will be September 13, 2022, at 6:15 pm.

Lowry moved, Gantman second to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 9/13/2022 Economic Development Committee Meeting