

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting on September 13, 2022
(This meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 8/16/22
5. Public Input
6. DCEDC update
7. Val A Property Commercial Development
8. Attainable Housing
9. Broadband Update
10. 2023 Budget Request
11. Correspondence
12. Future meeting
13. Adjourn

Chair John Lowry called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. Committee members Dave Studebaker, Chuck Scheckel, Alan Kroll, and Andrew Gantman were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Doug Curzon and 1 member of the public.

Kroll moved, Studebaker second to approve the agenda as posted. Carried 5-0.

Lowry moved, Gantman second to approve the 8/16/2022 minutes as presented. Carried 5-0.

Public – None.

DCEDC Update – Michelle Lawrie, Director, reported the WEDC/UW-Madison grant for a study was declined. Two new staff members have been hired, and there will be a partner reception on 9/27/22.

Attainable Housing – Michelle Lawrie, noted Door County Housing Partnership (DCHP) encourages home ownership. A septic would be approximately \$500,000 and could handle up to 43 units, the number and arrangement of units would still need to be determined based on zoning. WEDC is aware that infrastructure is the largest obstacle for municipalities. Studebaker reported that Door County Community Foundation (DCCF) is working on a Workforce Housing Lending program which will ensure a specified number of rental units remain affordable. Scheckel noted permanently affordable seems more feasible with the DCHP ownership model. Kroll asked where employers can get involved in the development of housing for their employees. The process to obtain higher density needs to be outlined. Kalms noted Mariah Goode would need to present the current and desired density to RPC for their approval. It was the consensus to invite the DCHP to gauge their interest and request a proposal/plan which could potentially be presented to the electors.

Val-A Property – Lowry noted Parks requested this property be sold and the Board expressed a desire for the property to have a commercial use which could be lost upon the sale. Kalms noted the Town has 152,000 invested, the well is capped, and the septic likely needs replacing. Scheckel noted an RFP may be helpful to alert interested parties and may provide an opportunity to steer the development of the property. Lowry noted the Board would need to set the price and to see RFPs.

Broadband Update – Lowry reported that the pilot project agreement has not yet been signed. Gantman reported he has reached out to another company that is willing to share the business model and explain more about handing over the assets of a network without the subscription/service income to offset the debt payments. Studebaker reported the pilot project will be split into two phases and is estimated to be completed in the spring, Nsight is planning to install all of the drops, and there is no additional information from WPS on the line burial project.

2023 Budget – Lowry noted the Finance Committee has not made any changes to the Economic Development Committee request.

Correspondence – None.

The next meeting will be October 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Lowry moved, Gantman second to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 10/11/2022 Economic Development Committee meeting.