

**COOK COUNTY/GRAND MARAIS EDA MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, 4:00 PM**

Present: Heidi Doo-Kirk, Scott Harrison, Carol Mork, Howard Hedstrom,
Hal Greenwood, Bev Green

Absent: Anton Moody

Also Present: Pat Campanaro, Mary Somnis

Hedstrom called the meeting to order. There were no public comments. Upon a Motion by Mork, second by Doo-Kirk and all ayes, today's agenda and the August 11, 2020 minutes were approved. Motion carried.

Harrison presented monthly financials for the EDA and Superior National. He said both entities should end the year with some working capital. If weather is good in September, the golf course could see the original number of budgeted rounds at 12,000. Staff there have done a great job of controlling expenses. With all the uncertainty at the beginning of the season, \$100,000 in capital expenditures were deferred.

Upon a motion by Greenwood, second by Harrison and all ayes, the bills were approved for payment as submitted, with the addition of CARES Round 1 grants. Motion carried.

Harrison left the meeting at 4:30 PM.

The board discussed the proposed Budget and Levy Request for 2021. There is no change from the levy request from 2020. Upon a motion by Mork, second by Greenwood and all ayes, the proposed Budget and Levy Request for 2021 was approved. Motion carried.

The board discussed bringing a training to businesses for Succession Planning. This is a project of U of M Extension and Vision One. We will invite Cook County Higher Ed to partner on this training. If the desired number of ten business participants are not found in Cook County, we could open it up to Lake County. Upon a motion by Mork, second by Doo-Kirk and all ayes, the board approved a sponsorship of \$2500 to bring this training to local businesses. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the draft loan application for Taconite Area Business Relief. Upon a motion by Greenwood, second by Doo-Kirk and all ayes, the board approved that Howard, Scott, Pat, and Mary should complete the application form and announce the loan program. Motion carried.

Based on inquiries from potential buyers of lots at Cedar Grove, Somnis recommended that zoning be amended to allow for owner-occupied use throughout the business park. Six of the eight lots that are zoned for owner-occupied use have been sold. The two lots remaining have some wetland issues. Several inquiries are interested in owner-occupied, but not those lots. As the need for workforce housing is well-known, Somnis also recommended that employee housing be an allowed use. It was agreed that the EDA board will continue to consider each proposed purchase on a case by case basis. Upon a motion by Doo-Kirk, second by Mork and a vote of 4 in favor, the board approved that Somnis should request that the Grand Marais Planning Commission amend zoning and allow for owner-occupied and employee housing throughout Cedar Grove. Greenwood abstained, as he is on the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

Hedstrom gave an update on the Grand Marais Fire Recovery group. Mike Fischer, with LHB, is providing a great deal of pro bono guidance to the process. Richard Olson is providing pro bono design concepts as visual aids for the process. White Pine and Crooked Spoon are the most ready to move forward currently. Greenwood offered assistance for a loan with a bank he is working with. The concept includes condos on the second floor.

There will be a second round of Cook County CARES Grants. The Chamber has moved out of the office. Pat and Mary are re-arranging spaces. Workforce Recruitment is on hiatus for now. The Chamber will decide whether to continue, based on input from businesses. Pat reported that Care Partners is coordinating the efforts of local nonprofits. Work continues on the creation of a TIF district and a management plan for the proposed assisted living facility.

Upon a motion by Greenwood, second by Green and all ayes, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.