

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COOK COUNTY AND GRAND MARAIS JOINT  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024-4:00 PM  
Cook County Courthouse, Commissioners Room  
411 W Second St., Grand Marais, MN  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Steve Surbaugh, Peter Clissold, Mark Shackleton, Dave Mills. Tracy Benson & Howard Hedstrom joined at 4:05 pm.

**Absent:** Myron Bursheim

**Others Present:** Jason Hale, Pat Campanaro, Stacey Johnson, Kallie Hawkins, Chris Skildum, Tara Austin, Alex Beebe-Guidice, Christine Saylor, Gwen & Bill Lenz, minute taker Maggie Barnard

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Surbaugh at 4:00 p.m.

**2. Public to Address the Commission**

Surbaugh asked if there are any members of the public present that want to make comments to the commission. Gwen and Bill Lenz addressed the commissioners saying they encourage and support them pursuing the sale of the Superior National Golf Course. Surbaugh thanked them and closed public address.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Surbaugh called for agenda additions and if none a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

[Motion to approve Agenda.](#) (Mills/Shackleton ) Vote: Passed (4/0)

**4. Public Hearings**

No public hearings.

**5. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a. September 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

[Motion to approve September 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.](#) (Shackleton/Mills) Vote: Passed (4/0)

**6. Review of Financials**

a. Cook County & Grand Marais EDA September

Shackleton said the budget is in line with expenses. We received an advance audit invoice of \$12,000.

Current cash position is healthy.

[President and members accept the September EDA Financials and forward to audit.](#)

b. Cook County & Grand Marais EDA September

Payments No discussion.

[Motion to approve September EDA Payments.](#) (Mills/Clissold) Vote: Passed (4/0)

c. Superior National at Lutsen Golf September Financials

Trending down in rounds about 8%, revenue is even to last year. Cash position is healthy. Large expenditure coming up for purchase of golf carts.

[President and members accept September Superior National Financials and forward to audit.](#)

## 7. New Business

a. Nominate Secretary and Assistant Treasurer (tabled at Sept. meeting)

Seats vacant with Bajda's departure. Item to move forward to November keep it on agenda.

b. Cedar Grove Lot 4, Block 4 purchase offer.

Chris Skildum present. This is to determine if commissioners agree with the offer. Hedstrom/Mills

[Motion to discuss accepting offer and continue process.](#) (Hedstrom/Mills) Vote: Passed {6-0}

All agree to accept offer and continue with authorization process.

c. Resolutions for Approval

i. **2024-49: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH SCANDI BIJOU FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000.**

Tara Austin present, she has an established business and this is to build a website with Sweetwater Design. No questions. [Motion to approve Resolution 2024-49.](#) (Mills/Shackleton) Vote: Passed {6/0}

ii. **2024-50: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH LONELY LOON LLC FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.**

This is for the Superior Creamery business, owners Alex Beebe-Giudice and Christine Saylor are present.

They will use the grant to acquiring the building and property they are currently leasing with plans to expand the business. Grant Review committee said that the parameters of property sold within 4 years the money comes back to EDA and if there is no improvement within 10 years the money is repaid to the EDA. [Motion to approve Resolution 2024-50.](#) (Shackleton/Clissold) Vote: Passed {6/0}

d. Purchasing golf carts for Superior National

No questions. The EDA does not need to approve or authorize purchase, the Board of Governors does this. Shackleton confirmed funds are available.

e. Motion to request approval from the County to sell Superior National Golf Course

i. See attached legal opinion of outline for the sale

Motion by Hedstrom to present to the County the request to sell Superior National Golf Course at Lutsen. If the members approve a public hearing will be scheduled. Discussion. Time is right to do this with the departure of many founding members that established the course. Hedstrom to investigate title search. Recommendation to put a termination date on how long sale is available. Peripheral property is in trust, the sale is only greens and fairways. Discussion on conditions or restrictions for the sale: what are the priorities? Mills will pursue getting this on the County Board of Commissioners agenda for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Mills question of how many memberships/regular players are local? Surbaugh will contact Larson to assist with presentation narrative. He will email Larson's August narrative to Mills to include for the County Commissioners. Discussion closed. Motion second called. (Hedstrom/Shackleton) Vote: Passed {6-0}

f. SBDC Monthly Report

No additions to enclosed to report.

## 8. Committee Reports

a. Hiring Committee

Mills said that the Director search is going very well, there have been five interviews, and a sixth one to do. There are great prospects. Recommendation made to discuss challenges of housing, costs of moving with candidates. Mills asked about the parameters on hybrid/ remote work or part-time residency during a transition period. Campanaro said in her screening she does state the importance of working as soon as possible in-person as it is critical to make contacts and relationships in the community.

Campanaro recommended timelines and boundaries for any requests. Commissioners were reminded

that previously they were open to remote work but it was not needed for that hire. Surbaugh will defer to committee to use their best judgment on a moderate expense of reimbursement for moving costs. The committee is hoping to have a candidate to present for the November 19<sup>th</sup> regular EDA meeting. Surbaugh encouraged calling a special meeting if a decision can be earlier than November 19<sup>th</sup>. A Special meeting needs to be publicly posted. Decision to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 to select and make an offer to a candidate.

Surbaugh will be checking the EDA Director email. Bajda can do work on Fridays to assist Surbaugh. Her hours on a contract basis were previously approved.

Benson said the City Administrator will be reaching out to Grand Marais EDA commissioners Shackleton and Bursheim regarding their term renewals. Surbaugh and Hedstrom terms are finished January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. It was recommended that the County post these positions on the County website, do media releases and do a WTIP interview to recruit new commissioners.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the October 15, 2024 meeting at 5:05 pm (Hedstrom).

*Next Meeting: November 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Cook County Courthouse -Commissioner's Room*

*Respectfully submitted by minute taker Maggie Barnard.*