

Monroe County Economic Development, Commerce & Tourism Committee
Regular Monthly Meeting—April 7, 2016
Meca Sportswear, Tomah, WI

Present: Committee Members: Sharon Folcey, Nodji Van Wychen, Dean Peterson, Bruce Humphrey, Jim Schroeder. Citizen Members: Carol Ostrem, Mary Jo Hill. Advisory Members: Bernie Arena, Tim Hyma. Economic Development Coordinator: Steve Peterson. Guests: Theresa Fitzgerald (Fort McCoy), Leslie Schreier.

The meeting notice was posted in compliance with the open meeting law.

Chair Folcey called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was taken. Jeff Cram of Meca Sportswear welcomed the group and offered them a tour of the facility following the meeting.

Motion by Humphrey to accept the March 2016 minutes as presented. Second by Schroeder. Motion carried.

Folcey went over a budget adjustment. PayPal funds need to be moved from the bank to our account in order to pay bills from the conference. The county board will need to approve it. Motion by Humphrey to make the budget adjustment. Second by Schroeder. Motion carried.

It was noted that this will be Leslie Schreier's last meeting with the committee. Our "person" will now come out of Shelley Bohl's office. Motion by Humphrey to pay the Hidden Valleys dues for 2016. Second by D. Peterson. Motion carried.

Schreier noted that two bills from the conference were just paid. One they needed a W-9 for and the other was Image Pictures.

S. Peterson wants to get a head start on the 2017 conference. He went over a few of the possible speakers and sessions.

Folcey noted that the committee will have three members starting next month.

S. Peterson noted that he had the opportunity to sit in on a Supreme Court (Washington D.C.) hearing regarding wetlands last week. It was regarding the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers overstepping their boundaries. He was asked to attend as an economic development person dealing with some of the same issues.

S. Peterson gave a number of happenings coming up shortly. They included:

- Organic Valley is building a \$9.1 million cheese plant in Cashton, south of the distribution center. They will produce "ghee" (butter without water). Construction to be completed by January 2017.
- Organic Valley grand opening to be held April 28th.
- Tomah Memorial Hospital will be breaking ground for their new facility south of Highway 16.
- Starbucks in Tomah is breaking ground.
- Lark Inn gas pumps are gone.

S. Peterson noted that if we don't use funds from the revolving loan fund with the state we lose those funds. He noted that Monroe County will host the upcoming Eco-Devo meeting on April 22nd at the Best Western Hotel in Sparta. S. Peterson also said that 7 Rivers is now paying people to do the BORG survey if done face to face.

Van Wychen gave a report on what is happening with UW-Extension. the budget will remain the same for 2017. Each county will have an office. Programs staying for sure include 4-H and Master Gardener. The rest will be announced later. She noted that the same summer intern will return for Monroe County to help with 4-H work.

D. Peterson said Marten Trucking has over 200 trucks and is building a distribution center in Utah. There will be a grand opening for the expanded Wilton Feed Mill on April 21st from noon to 3 p.m. Humphrey noted that the jail will be operational on April 23rd. The old facility will be demolished.

S. Peterson noted that he paid for 5 years of the county domain name.

Ostrem stated that a 2 day Josh Tolley workshop was just completed. Another one will be coming in the near future.

Hyma noted the 7 Rivers meeting April 28th in Rushford, MN. and an upcoming lunch and learn on April 14th.

Folcey noted that this is the last meeting of this committee as it stands. The committee will be reorganized by the next meeting slated for May 5, 2016. Place to be announced.

Motion by Humphrey to adjourn. Second by D. Peterson. Motion carried.

--Bernie Arena

Recorder