

Minutes
SKOWHEGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
INFORMAL MEETING
January 24, 2018
7:00 AM
Renaissance Center – Conference Room

Members Present:

Jason Gayne, Chairman
Doreen Poulin, Vice-Chairman
Betty Austin
Kristina Cannon
Matt Dubois
Bill Finley
Reid Gibson
Kurt Maynard

Members Absent:

Sally Dwyer
Todd Smith, Treasurer

Others Present:

Dena Rich, Recording Secretary
Jeff Hewett, Director of Economic & Community Dev.

1. Call regular meeting to order.

Jason Gayne called meeting to order at 7:04 a.m., quorum was met.

2. Approve the Skowhegan Economic Development Corporation minutes the “regular” meeting November 1, 2017, Email Polls December 15, 2017 and “comments” from the January 3, 2018 meeting.

Motion by Kurt Maynard, seconded by Bill Finley to approve the minutes from the “regular” meeting November 1, 2017 and Email Poll December 15, 2017 and “comments” from The January 3, 2018 meeting as written. Vote 8-0 motion carried.

3. Approve the Skowhegan Economic Development Corporation financials from November, December.

Motion by Matt Dubois, seconded by Reid Gibson to approve the financials from November and December. Vote 8-0, motion carried.

4. Old Business

There was no old business to attend to at this meeting.

5. New Business

a. Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A Title 1 s405 (6)(C) to discuss property negotiations.

Motion made by Matt Dubois, seconded by Betty Austin to go into Executive Session at 7:06 a.m. to discuss in accordance with M.R.S. A Title 1 s405 (6)(C), to discuss property negotiations and for Dena Rich as the Recording Secretary to stay in the room. Vote 8-0, motion carried.

Motion made by Kurt Maynard, seconded by Matt Dubois to come out of Executive Session at 7:45 a.m. Vote 8-0, motion carried.

Motion by Matt Dubois, seconded by Kurt Maynard to give Jeff Hewett the authority to negotiate between \$60-80,000 for the KVI Building with Dale Thorpe. Vote 5-2-1, Jason Gayne abstained, motion carried.

The Board had a brief discussion about owning a building that has asbestos if the costs would be too much to abate. The topic of Brownfield grant dollars came up and that non-profits or municipalities are able to utilize those funds for projects such as this building.

Amended motion by Matt Dubois, seconded by Kurt Maynard that negotiation prices of the building are subject to an abatement of the building for asbestos. Vote 7-0-1, Jason Gayne abstained, motion carried.

6. Member Topics

Broadband- Jeff Hewett let the Board know that Heather Johnson formerly the Director of Somerset Economic Development Corp is now working in Augusta as the Director of ConnectME.

Natural Gas- No updates at this time.

Acquisition/Development- Topic discussed during meeting.

Marketing- Kristina Cannon let the Board know that the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Skowhegan partnered on a four-page spread in the Kennebec Valley Tourism Councils Vacation Planner. The final proof should be coming out in the next couple of weeks. In addition to the four pages they will be writing a page on Skowhegan with photos. This Planner goes around to the welcome centers throughout the State but also outside of the New England area. The Visitor's Guide that Main Street and The Chamber partnered on this past summer/fall is out in the visitor centers.

Run of River- Kristina Cannon let the Board know that she went to Pittsfield and met with Kleinschmidt and Mclaughlin White Water. The Selectmen approved to use the \$15,000 from the Davis Grant Foundation for Pre-permitting activities. This is help figure out which permits we need to get the project going, this not to entering into the permitting process, it is just for cost assessment. Kristina Cannon said she has meeting set up with Rolsen Association; Eric Rolsen and Kate O'Halerin will be coming to meet with Kristina, they are a Philanthropic Consultant. They could do some coaching to help us with fundraising and also may have some contacts in the philanthropic world that we don't have access to.

7. Items by the Members

No items by the Members at this time.

8. Economic & Community Development Office Items

Jeff Hewett let the Board know that we had an issue with the elevator during the cold spell the past couple of weeks. We had the Elevator service out to check it and he said it is because the Elevator room is not warm enough. Jeff Hewett Said he was going to seal a crack where the two buildings meet. He said he may have a contractor come in and possibly look at installing an electric heater, but he would need to talk with Randy Gray to see if that would be allowed.

Jeff Hewett let the Board know that last week the ISO adjuster visited the Industrial Park Building. Jeff Hewett said he hopes this time it goes better than the last; last time the rates for the building were very high and took a few years to get them back down.

Jeff Hewett let the Board know he would be out of the office starting February 2 and hoped to be out for only a week or two. If anyone needs to get information or a hold of him please call the office and Dena can answer the question or get a hold of Jeff.

Motion to adjourn by Reid Gibson, seconded by Billy Finley.