

Minutes
Swift County RDA Board Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2008 @ VFW, Benson, MN

Members Present: Jason Heinecke, Pete Peterson, Paul Kittelson, Belinda Sanders, Ann Delgehausen, Dorothy Rosemeier, and Ed Ulmaniec.
Members Absent: Eric Rudnigen
Staff Present: Jennifer Gruis
Others Present: None.

100 Agenda

200 Minutes

The **Minutes of the 1-10-08 RDA Board Meeting** were reviewed. **MOTION** by Pete, second by Belinda to approve the **Minutes of the 1-10-08 RDA Board Meeting**. Motion carried.

300 Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the January 2007 financial statements for the RDA as prepared by Conway Deuth and Schmiesing. The balance sheet showed \$455,081.08 in total liabilities and equity on 1-31-08. Statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balances showed a net income (loss) of \$5,294.10 for the period 1-1-08 to 1-31-08. Revenue and Expenses for the period 1-1-08 to 12-31-08 were \$5,249.10 and \$18,067.92 respectively. Available to lend on 12-31-07 was \$48,333.60 and available to operate was \$162,996.72

Due to discrepancies in the Balances on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balances compared with the Budget to Actual no **MOTION** was made and Jen will investigate the results with Jill at CDS and January Financials will be reviewed again at next meeting.

400 Decision Items

401 Big Stone ii Resolution -The Board revisited making a Resolution in support of the Big Stone ii project, transmission lines, or none or all of the above after having more time to review. The Board was informed of the RDA Director's attendance at the "Gang of 7" meeting to promote Swift County to employees that construct the Big Stone ii project. Paul thought the RDA would look like "dorks" if we promoted economic development value of the workers on the project, but said nothing where the actual project was concerned. Ann noted that a Resolution did not need to be made just for the plant or transmission, but for conservation of energy as well to be consistent with our stance on renewable fuels, and was interested in crating a Resolution on Energy needs- not specific to the plant. Ed felt it was a "good idea" to promote the area and that a resolution should support capacity and infrastructure needs. Paul stated we do need transmission lines and that the Big Stone plant is in SD, not MN. Dorothy presented some information from the CBED transmission study and ask if we couldn't look at alternatives w/out it being an either or decision.

Rob told a story about a 15 minute notice the City of Benson received recently to increase generation- as much as they head, noting that those notices used to come with 3-4 days notice.

Motion for a Committee to draft a new Resolution for evaluation by the Board to cover more than just the project or transmission was made by Dorothy, second by Ed. Motion carried.

Committee Members: Jen, Dorothy, Paul, Ann

500 Discussion Items

501 RDA Office Location- Move - Jennifer informed the Board she was interested in putting together a proposal to move out of the Courthouse office location off the lunch room, and into one of the offices at the Benson Chamber of Commerce location. Belinda stated that this was discussed before and the Board did not want the perception to be that the RDA was a Benson City entity. RDA office time in Appleton or other cities were discussed and Paul noted that if we moved the office, it would be good to include RDA signage at other Chambers like Appleton to ensure the RDA was still perceived as County-wide. There was additional discussion of moving upstairs within the Courthouse, but the Board authorized Jennifer to put together a proposal to move into the Chamber location.

502 Bylaws- A discussion of whether the Bylaws should be updated was held. Jennifer was unsure whether the bylaw copies she had, were current. A suggestion was made to contact Tara who drafted a copy to meet state requirements. Jen will find the current copy of the bylaws.

503 RDA Biodiesel Event- Jen updated the Board on the movie screening and Biodiesel discussion panel event she is planning in Benson at DeMarce theater for March 29, 2008 at 1 pm.

504 Board Initiatives - Ann discussed the need for Committees and spending more time acting on Board initiatives. Examples were in providing grant training, the review of the CEDS results, and the energy resolution issue.

600 Information Items

601 Executive Director Report - Members were provided a copy of the Director's report for the previous month.

602 Matt Privratsky - Introduction and Work Plan - Jennifer had introduced Matt at the beginning of the meeting and discussed his work plan to create publicity by updating the "Where Renewable Businesses Thrive" Booklet and other marketing materials.

603 Webpage Enhancements- Jennifer provided an outline of webpage layout topics focusing on businesses, site locators, and ready-made demographic data.

700 Adjournment

Ed adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held following the Annual Meeting at the VFW at Noon in Benson.

Approved by: _____
Ed Ulmaniec, President Belinda Sanders, Secretary-Treasurer

Prepared by: _____
Jennifer Gruis, Director Date