

MEMBERS:

Mike Allison

Term expire 12-31-21

Peter Garwood

Term expire 12-31-19

Andy LaPointe

Term expire 12-31-20

Dawn LaVanway

Term expire 12-31-21

Kathleen Peterson

Term expire 12-31-20

Bonnie Robbins

Term expire 12-31-16

Veronica Welter

Term expire 12-31-16

Sherry Comben

Term of elected office

Dave Heeres

Term of elected office

STAFF

Pete Garwood

Administrator

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Janet Koch

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Tina Schrader

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Secretary

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SPECIAL ASSISTANCE:

If you wish to attend this Meeting & require special assistance, please contact the Administration and Planning Office by writing P.O. Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615; emailing: countyadmin@antrimcounty.org; or calling 231-533-6265.

Antrim County

Economic Development Corporation

Mission Statement: Retain, expand, and promote
County-wide economic growth and stability.

To: Antrim County Economic Development Corporation
From: Janet Koch, Associate Planner
Date: December 5, 2016
Re: Meeting Notice

The Antrim County Economic Development Corporation
meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Room 211,
2nd Floor, County Building, Bellaire

Agenda

- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes – *October 18, 2016 (attached)*
- Paddle Antrim – Deana Jerdee
- Charlevoix CVB – Amanda Wilkin
- County-wide Promotional Brochure
- Various Matters
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

If you have any questions, concerns, or are unable to attend this meeting, please contact the Administration and Planning Office at 231-533-6265.

Thank You.

Antrim County

Economic Development Corporation

Mission Statement: Retain, expand, and promote County-wide economic growth and stability.

October 18, 2016

Minutes

Members present: Dawn LaVanway, Mike Allison, Sherry Comben, Pete Garwood, Dave Heeres, Andy LaPointe, Kathy Peterson, Bonnie Robbins, and Veronica Welter

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Crawford, Janet Koch

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dawn LaVanway, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mike Allison, seconded by Bonnie Robbins, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2016 as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Frontier Communications

Lisa Mecheau, General Manager with Frontier Communications, said she had been with Frontier for 6 years. Ms. Mecheau introduced Chuck Hardin, Network Engineering Specialist with Frontier and Michael Probert, Business Account Executive with Frontier.

Ms. Mecheau said Frontier started investing in broadband in Michigan and has spent over \$250 million over the past 5-6 years. She said in that time frame, this area of Michigan has gone from 33% broadband coverage to 88% coverage (**see attached pgs. 3-4**).

The Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Funding was discussed. Ms. Mecheau said with the Phase 1.2 funding, 4,300 households in the Mio and Vanderbilt area had been impacted. Phase 1 was completed in 2013, with speeds of 4 megabytes (mg) up and 4 mg down. Phase 2 speed requirements are 10 mg down, 1 mg up, but disbursement of the Phase 2 funding has been delayed by court action.

Mr. Probert said 4 mg is what you need to stream a high definition movie. Mr. Hardin said if a download speed seems slow, it is often the case that the router on site is the problem, not the download speed.

Tom Stephenson of Connect Michigan distributed a handout that illustrated the final eligible areas for CAF funding (**see attached pgs. 5-6**). Ms. Mecheau said Frontier covers the following areas: Bellaire, Rogers City, Onaway, Vanderbilt, Gaylord, down to Houghton Lake, Ellsworth, and Eastport. Petoskey was not in Frontier's region.

Mr. Stephenson indicated that approximately 5% of the Upper Peninsula are unlikely to ever receive a hard connection to broadband. He added that Charter Communications was working on a low-cost broadband that will be available in early 2017 to low-income consumers through schools and senior citizen assistance programs.

5. Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) Update

Sara Christensen, NLEA Community Development, said with 400 jobs at stake, the NLEA has been trying hard to keep EJ (formerly known as East Jordan Ironworks) in the area. She said she has also been working on the US 131 Strategic Plan which has been led by Networks Northwest. They have been doing a lot of information gathering in the last year; now targeting specific projects that will benefit the entire corridor, which ranges from Cadillac to Petoskey.

Ms. Christensen said a new call center business is interested in a location in Bellaire and could bring 70-100 new jobs to the area. The owner had not yet closed on the property as they are looking for incentives such as tax abatements before purchasing. Michigan Economic Development Corporation is working with the owner.

Other projects the NLEA have been involved with are working with the Elk Rapids DDA, assisting the Bellaire DDA with finalizing their TIF plan, and working with Armor Express on a potential expansion. Ms. Christensen said the NLEA recently held a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) event which was hosted by Joe Short at the Elk Rapids manufacturing facility.

Mr. LaPointe asked Ms. Christensen about a 15,000 square foot hydroponic marijuana production facility and dispensary east of Mancelona near the Antrim and Otsego County line. Ms. Christensen was not familiar with the project.

6. County-wide Promotional Brochure

Ms. Koch said at the previous meeting, the consensus of the EDC had been to theme the brochure as “Antrim County: A Land of Experiences.” Ms. Koch had selected a number of examples of brochures for the EDC to view as possible design choices. The EDC, Ms. Christensen and Ms. Koch discussed the brochure and its target audience. Ms. Koch said she will bring a draft version to the next meeting.

7. Various Matters

Ms. Koch said she’d contacted Deana Jerdee, Executive Director of Paddle Antrim, and Ms. Jerdee had agreed to appear at the November 15 EDC meeting to talk about the economic impacts of the event. Ms. Koch said she is also working to get a representative from the Charlevoix CVB to the November meeting.

The EDC said they are likely to cancel their November meeting and to ask Ms. Jerdee and a Charlevoix CVB representative to attend their December meeting. It was the consensus of the EDC to move their December meeting from December 20 to December 13.

8. Public Comment

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.