

Fergus County Port Authority

Meeting Minutes

02-12-2014

I. Call to order

Sam Weidner called to order the regular meeting of the FCPA at 0800 hours on 02-14-2014 in Fergus County Sheriff's office complex.

II. Roll call

Pete Peterson conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Board members-Pete Peterson, Sam Weidner, Bob Steinmann, Tom McKenna, Tony Pierce, and Terry Atkinson. Guests present- Sue Zellick, Duane Ferdinand, Nancy Weaver, Chris Cooler, Kevin Myhre, Jacques Rutten, Kevin Connors and Steve Fanning.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

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IV. Open issues

- a) Treasure's report. Tom presented the account total of \$1097.57.
- b) Downtown and commercial sites in area: Tom presented a list of some properties in the area that may be available. Most are not actively listed for sale but owners are interested in selling or leasing same. Discussion about legalities of listing properties on web site or linking website to different realtors was discussed along with issues of the different properties.
- c) Internet Broadband speeds: A discussion was had concerning the lack of information or accurate information about what speeds are really available in the community in order to attract business that require same. It was suggested to invite members of the communications community to present their case.
- d) Convention center feasibility study- Kevin presented that the stakeholders had a meeting and have decided to move forward with phase 2 of study to better understand how to move forward.
- e) TBID- Bob presented they have only funded one project to date. They are actively looking for more applications to bring visitors to town. He also discussed the pictograph caves by Forest Grove and how the TBID group is trying to work with them. The cave's by Billings MT had over 60,000 visitors and they feel we have a large opportunity with this.
- f) First responder member from Lewistown Downtown Association- Chris Cooler has been named the representative for them.
- g) Highway 87W road project- Pete presented what was discussed at the meeting with Fergus county commissioner meeting. It was discussed and moved by Terry and 2nd by Pete that we send formal letter of concern to both the

Montana Department of Transportation and also a letter to the governor requesting he come out and visit with the groups concerned about this project. Motion passed.

- h) Tournament committee- Pete shared with all that the 1st combined district 7c/8c tourney will be held in Lewistown Feb 19-21, 2015. He shared that this will be our opportunity as a community to show them how much they are appreciated.
- i) Grocery store- Sam shared with us on-going conversations with a couple of key personnel in the industry and what they may require. One being they want to own the property not lease and they would like to see a market study completed. He also shared his idea's on how we could secure property for them to lease with a buy out at end of lease through INTERCAP funding available through the state of Montana. There was some discussion about workforce pool in Lewistown area and challenges that might occur with this.

V. New business

- a) Oil company activity- Bob shared with the group some information about interest from a couple of companies that may be looking to move office's and exploration opportunities in our area.
- b) LDA booth for spring fling- Chris shared with the group that they are going to have an informational booth again at the spring fling and would like to have representatives from all development groups there to field any questions the public would bring.

VI. Adjournment

Sam adjourned the meeting at **0920 hour.**

Minutes submitted by: Pete Peterson

Minutes approved by: 3-12-14