

Local Development Finance Authority  
June 2, 2021 - Noon  
Lakeshore Center Community Room  
Houghton, MI 49931

Present Via Zoom Video Conference: Dan Crane, Steve Patchin, Doreen Kramer, Robert Megowen, Al Koskela, Dan Salo, Robert Backon

Absent: Mike Hauswirth, Whitney Wharstler, George McNulty, Jim Hainault

Guests: Eric Waara, Jeff Ratcliffe

Staff: Scott MacInnes, Cheryl LeClaire, Jason Mack, Kaitlyn Studinger

Chairman Dan Crane called the June 2, 2021 Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) meeting to order at 12:00 pm

**1. Public Hearing**

Chairman Dan Crane opened the June 2, 2021 Public Hearing of the Local Development Finance Authority at 12:01 pm.

- 2. Public Comment** - Jeff Ratcliffe in attendance. 2021-2022 Budget was presented. Jeff Ratcliffe asked if there were any changes to the TIF due to COVID. He also asked if LDFA if there was an LDFA plan.

Al Koskela made a motion close the LDFA public hearing at 12:05 pm. Robert Backon supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approve April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes** - Robert Megowen made a motion to approve the April 21, 2021 LDFA minutes. Dan Salo supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None.
- b. **Approve 2020-2021 Budget Adjustments** - Robert Megowen made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 LDFA Budget Adjustments. Dan Salo supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None.
- c. **LDFA Transfer to MTEC** – Bob Backon made a motion to approve a transfer, leaving a balance of not more than \$2,000.00 in the LDFA operating account, prior to Fiscal Year end. Robert Megowen supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- d. **LDFA 2021-2022 DRAFT Budget** - Al Koskela made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 LDFA Budget. Robert Megowen supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None.

**4. MTEC Update - Reports and Goals and Direction of the LDFA**

- a. Scott MacInnes shared a spreadsheet about taxable values for the U.P. Average age has significantly increased. Empower UP has been collecting data throughout the U.P. With the exception of Houghton, most of the local school districts have seen a significant decline in students.
- b. Jason Mack gave an update on current Smart Start activity. There is 1 session that is currently wrapping up and 1 person that is ready for the next session. Pre-COVID there was more community outreach opportunities, MTEC will be renewing this effort.
- c. A successful Return North event was held on May 20, 2021, in collaboration with Innovate Marquette and Sault Ste Marie SmartZone. 40 companies attended. 2 confirmed job offers.
- d. MEDC – Mi-STEM Internship Program – This program provides funding for interns throughout the state. Reviewed and gave updates of MTEC’s strategy for 2021.
  - *Attract high tech businesses to our area* – working with Invest UP, continue work with Finland startups
  - *Foster Community Entrepreneurial Climate (Ecosystem)* – Continue work with Keweenaw Young Professionals to grow their numbers. Team Peninsula continues to meet. Superior Fab Lab is a community-based maker space, looking to open up their programming, potentially after July 1, 2021.

**5. CEO Update**

Eric Waara gave an update on the CEO Search. They have made a verbal offer to 1 candidate, currently under negotiations and will be looking to make an announcement in the next 1 to 2 weeks.

**6. Adjourn**

Dan Salo made a motion to adjourn the June 2, 2021 meeting of the Local Development Finance Authority. Bob Backon supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl LeClaire  
Secretary, Pro-Tem