

Local Development Finance Authority  
January 27, 2021 - Noon  
Zoom Conferencing  
Houghton, MI 49931

Present Via Zoom Video Conference: Dan Crane, Steve Patchin, Doreen Kramer, Robert Megowen, Jim Hainault, Al Koskela, Dan Salo, Whitney Wharstler, Stacey Brey

Absent: Mike Hauswirth, Robert Backon

Guests: Eric Waara

Staff: Scott MacInnes, Cheryl LeClaire, Jason Mack, Patrick Visser

Chairman Dan Crane opened the January 27, 2021 quarterly meeting of the Local Development Finance Authority at 12:02 pm.

1. **Public Comment** – There were no public comments.
2. **Consent Agenda**
  - a. **Approve October 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Jim Hainault made a motion to approve the October 28, 2020 LDFA minutes. Robert McGowen supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None.
  - b. **Approve Audit ending June 30, 2020** – Al Koskela made a motion to approve the audit ending June 30, 2020. Robert Megowen supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
  - c. **TIF Capture – City of Hancock** – Doreen Kramer made a motion to return an overpayment of \$10,207.03 to the City of Hancock. Robert Megowen supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.
3. **CEO Update** – Eric Waara gave an update. Stang is going through the incoming applications. Eric has the list of previous applicants and recent Marquette applicants. He will check with Jody Johnson (Stang) to include the numerical score for past applicants. All board members have access to this site. As of today, there were 22 applicants. Next steps will be to narrow down this group. By February 5<sup>th</sup>, each board member should send their Top 5 candidates to Eric.
4. **MTEC Goals and Objectives – 2021 Strategic Plan** – Interim MTEC CEO, Scott MacInnes, along with staff, gave an update on the 2021 strategic plan and MTEC activities. This plan was developed from the November 9<sup>th</sup> strategic meeting with MTEC Board and staff. Eric Waara added this will be a good starting point for a new CEO to work with. See attached document, for more details. The Marketing Department is working on website updates and Monte Consulting is working on the next newsletter and MTEC's social media content. MTEC will also be wrapping a new City of Houghton bus with a SmartZone themed wrap.
  - Patrick Visser gave an update on 3 clients that are in different stages of funding. Bob Mark Pitch competition will be held this Thursday, MTEC will be offering a \$1,000 award. Patrick will be a judge. 2 verbal commitments from Finland companies to move production to this area, potentially needed space. Dave Reed asked about helping companies to find space. Scott MacInnes gave an update on the current conversations with local companies surrounding space needs and Jeff Ratcliffe shared that KEDA maintains a space inventory list.
  - Jason Mack announced the next SmartStart session will begin on Tuesday 1/26/2021. There are currently 4 persons registered, with another 2 interested in a future class. Jason has been contacted by Hancock Public Schools about adding an entrepreneurial course or club into their curriculum. Testing Tuesday event was held with companies from Finland Present. 38 people attended and there will be another event set up. Jason is working with a person that is coordinating with Michigan Tech research to start a new business.
  - Kaitlyn Studinger is working on updating the current contracts and leases, making them easier to follow. She is also working with The Marketing Department on the website updates and with Monte Consulting on MTEC's monthly newsletter and social media content.

- Cheryl LeClaire has completed a new survey using a different platform for metric and data collection for grant reporting to the MEDC. Continued strengthening connections with Marquette SmartZone, providing support for grant administration and BAF requests. She has had meetings with Finlandia to discuss condo agreement and arrangement with their new Jutila administration. LDFA and MTEC audits are in process with Anderson Tackman. This year they are being done remotely so the process has been more time consuming.

**5. Adjourn**

Al Koskela made a motion to adjourn the January 27, 2021 meeting of the Local Development Finance Authority. Dan Salo supported. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl LeClaire  
Secretary, Pro-Tem