

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

February 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:40 AM, in the Commission Chambers located on the second floor of the Governmental Center and led the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marty Colburn, Kevin Klein, Jessica Sullivan, Christie Minervini (7:51), Nate Alger, Dennis Arouca (7:57), Rob Hentschel, Keef Morgan, Gary Howe

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Kern

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Hentschel, seconded by Morgan, to approve the agenda. **APPROVED unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Klein, seconded by Alger, to approve the regular session minutes of 12-12-19 as presented. **APPROVED unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF 2020 CALENDAR:

MOVED by Sullivan, seconded by Colburn, to remove Approval of 2020 Calendar for further discussion.

REPORTS / ACTION ITEMS

1. MEDC Strategy
Colburn and Arouca commented on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Strategic and Operational Plan for 2020.
2. Tart Cherry Crisis
Arouca elaborated on the Tart Cherry Crisis and the agricultural stress that is on Michigan farmers due to unfair trade practices. Jack Bergman called for the US Trade Representative, Department of Agriculture, and US Department of Agriculture to hold a field hearing in Michigan.

Arouca to draft a letter of support of the field hearing and encourage Grand Traverse County as the setting.

OLD BUSINESS

EDC Compliance PAC Resolution – Legal Opinion from Mr. Ross Hammersley

Focusing on whether the EDC must abide by the Grand Traverse Board of Commissioners' resolutions and ordinances, Mr. Hammersley concluded with the following points:

1. The EDC is subject to the County's general oversight and approval authority with respect to particular actions and governance issues; and

2. The EDC is an agency or political subdivision of the County which is obligated to comply with local ordinances and resolutions.

After discussing options, Minervini suggested bringing in an EDC liaison/community coordinator. Alger indicated there is funding for such a position. Hentschel requested a proposal template for this position be presented to the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.

Sullivan directed the following:

Hentschel to look at the current EDC Bylaws and come back to the board with what needs updating.

Alger to draft a community coordinator job description.

Sullivan brought up the discussion of meeting every other month. It was decided to keep the current schedule with the option to cancel meetings if there are no current agenda items.

MOVED by Klein, second by, Hentschel, to accept the calendar. **APPROVED unanimously**

OTHER BUSINESS Next meeting scheduled for March 12, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

MOVED by Minervini, seconded by Howe, to adjourn meeting. **APPROVED unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned 8:52 AM

Date

Jessica Sullivan, Chairperson