

Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting

Monday, February 20, 2020

5:30 PM

Bucksport Town Office (Council Chambers)

Minutes

1. Roll Call:

- A. Present: Mark Eastman, Jim Boothby, Kathy Downes, Frank Dunbar, Jim Morrison, Daphne Eyerer, and Rob Carmichael.
- B. Absent: John Wardwell, John Paul LaLonde, Dick Peterson, and Ron Russell

2. Approval of February 10, 2020 Minutes:

- A. Rob made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim M. seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes passed 6-0.

3. Public Comment for items not on the agenda

- A. No public comment.

4. Review the RFP's for the Marketing/Branding Campaign

- A. The committee members present discussed their top options and Rich read emails from those who were not able to be present. The committee selected the following 4 firms for an in-person interview.
 - a. The Belfort Group
 - b. Designlab
 - c. Marshall Communications
 - d. Sutherland & Weston

5. Authorize CEDD to set up interviews for Marketing/Branding Campaign Finalists

- A. The committee authorized Rich to set up in person interviews with the 4 firms.
- B. The interviewing committee will consist of Susan Lessard, Mark Eastman, Jim Morrison, Kathy Downes and Rich Rotella.

6. Revisions/edits to the previously discussed Business Grant Program

- A. Mark said he would like to start a rolling time line beginning August 1, 2020. The goal is to make the town look better so we shouldn't have to wait until next year.
- B. Mark said he would like to make ADA improvements as part of this grant as well so if someone wanted to make a ramp to get into the building they could use this to help

offset that cost. Mark used the Alamo as an example as they have an elevator in the back of the building but there are only steps to get into the building and no ramp.

- C. Mark asked if we wanted to have buildings eligible for 1 or multiple requests from this grant. Jim B said that with the density of the area that if 10 buildings take the max of \$10,000 that over the 3 years up to 30 buildings would be eligible for these monies. Rob said that they can apply as many times but that doesn't mean they would be approved multiple times.
- D. Jim B asked if we have set up a rubric to decide who is going to get the monies. He said you can add a line saying that if you have been approved previously that a second request would be weighed less than someone requesting monies for the first time.
- E. Jim B suggests having defined parameters in the language so you don't have to make decisions after the fact.
- F. Jim M asked if it had to be building owners. Mark answered him saying it could be business owners but that they have to be working with the landlord.

7. Next Meeting: March 9, 2020 @ 5:30pm

- A. Community Agency Funding:
 - a. Chris Johnson, member of the public, asked how this item got on the agenda and asked how this committee got that as part of its charge. He said the website says the Services Committee deals with that kind of funding. Chris said his concern is that there are people in this group who are not elected and are not even residents who get to influence the Town Council on their decision.
 - b. Rich informed the group that just prior to the meeting he received an offer for 27 Main Street in the amount of \$48,377 and includes all of the title/closing costs of completing the transaction. Jim M thought we were close to the end of our contract with 2 Rivers Realty and Rich told him that ran thru July 8, 2020.
 - c. Rich advised the group that earlier today he received an email from MDOT that our request was approved for funding of the walls on Main Street.

8. Adjournment

- A. Rob made a motion at 6:08pm. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.