

MINUTES OF KASSON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING January 5, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Kasson EDA was held at City Hall this 5th day of January, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Stevenson, Peterson, Johnson, Langan and Wegner.

Absent: Egger

The following staff members were present: Mike Martin, Community Development Director,
City Clerk Linda Rappe and City Administrator
Theresa Coleman

Also Present: Julie Olmsted, Heather Levasseur-Miller and Doug Ims

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 12:00

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Motion by Wegner, second by Langan to approve the minutes of regular meeting December 1, 2015 with all voting Aye.

2016 BUDGET: Community Development Director Martin stated that the EDA budget has decreased \$6,000 from 2015. Martin reminded the EDA that the meeting and conference line item is also used for EDA members as well as staff if anyone would like to attend a meeting or conference.

REVOLVING LOAN APPLICATION: Heather Levasseur-Miller is currently the owner of Creative Café in Dodge Center and has been in business for 20 months. Ms. Levasseur-Miller stated that the store is not doing very well in Dodge Center and would like to move her business to Kasson. She believes she will have more business in Kasson. Ms. Levasseur-Miller explained that this is a craft and paint store with classes and individual lessons and offers private parties. Ms. Levasseur-Miller passed out the business financials. The building she is looking at renting is the former Daisy Mae shop in the portion of the Old Leuthold's building that Pat Brown owns. Ms. Levasseur-Miller would like to borrow money from the EDA to move and to purchase a printer and rent. Ms. Levasseur-Miller already has a revolving loan from the City of Dodge Center for \$5,000 and they would want that back in full if she moves.

Chairman Stevenson stated that the EDA would like to see the lease and he and Board Member Wegner and Community Development Director Martin will go over the business plan.

SWENKE IMS PRESENTATION: Doug Ims stated that Dick Swenke is retiring March 1, 2016 and he has the opportunity to buy the property the company is on. Mr. Ims would like to stay in the city limits of Kasson and needs approximately 10-12 acres. Mr. Ims is asking if the EDA would be willing to help in some way. Community Development Director Martin stated that with new land there are a lot of options such as tax abatement, tif and revolving loan fund. Mr. Ims would like to consolidate the Swenke/Ims business into one building. Mr. Ims is planning on expanding his workforce.

The EDA is in consensus that they would be willing to help Mr. Ims and would like to keep him in town when the time comes.

PROJECT REPORTS: Community Development Director Martin stated that the Folkestad building should finally be able to close this month and the Gibbs loan closed last week.

OTHER BUSINESS: The EDA decided that Chairman Stevenson, Board Member Wegner and Community Development Director Martin will meet and make a recommendation on the Creative Café based on the financials.

Board Member Langan stated that he had a conversation with someone regarding a café in the Luethold building.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 12:46 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Rappe, City Clerk