

**BARRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 10th 2024. 8:00 AM**  
**Room 2311 – East Conference room**  
**335 East Monroe Ave, Barron, WI 54812**

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**Attendance: Beaudette, Nordby, Klug, Skinner, Stanford, Markgren, Leschisin, Lentz, Okey, Gerber, Heller, Westphal, Armstrong**

1. Call Meeting to Order **8:00 am by President Beaudette**
2. Public Appearances/Comments **none**
3. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting **Motion by Heller, Seconded Gerber**
4. Treasurers Report- **Motion by Norby, Seconded Heller Motion carried**
5. Request from Treasurer for method of accepting electronic payments – action item. **Motion to accept Square with 3% service fee per transaction for donations and contributions through electronic payment by Heller, Seconded Stanford Motion carried**
6. Board member introductions and vote.
  - a. Dave Lentz – Chetek **Appointed by the Mayor. Nomination by Heller, Seconded Nordby Board Approved**
  - b. Joe Leschisin – Cameron Superintendent – Education **Nomination by Gerber, Seconded Krug Board Approved**
7. Report From The Executive Director on Recent Activity- **Highlight current Workforce & Senior Housing Loans and Municipal Housing Solutions**
  - a. Start ups
    - i. 26 in process- **Some are moving on to RBF and 1 Micro loan for sure Norby requested a list of locations throughout the county. Board agreed no further info.**
  - b. Mfg. Relocations, Expansions update
    - i. Business expansions -3 in county, 1 regional. **This development will take a couple of years to fully process the transition. Armstrong is meeting weekly with the client. Regional is collaborative across counties, WEDC, Federal, and EDCs.**
    - ii. Business purchases – 3 total. **2 Rice Lake, 1 Cumberland**
  - c. Workforce Initiatives
    - i. Applying for Workforce grants – **Meeting pending with State for RL and Barron**
  - d. Alcatraz update – Bruce **Executive Committee approved funding to apply DNR WAM Grant to support clean up and redevelopment of the area. The resolution is going to the board.**
  - e. Housing update
    - i. Developer Activity – Updates to discuss
      1. Multifamily activity – Discuss **Barron Development may include housing. Cumberland has a potential site. RL is still under review. Chetek is developing multifamily and single.**
      2. Single Family – discuss **Rice Lake has a development**
  - f. Placemaking – Barron, Cumberland and Rice Lake – start discussion for spring **Regional Placemaking reports are available from previous findings**
  - g. Barron County Tourism Discussion
    - i. May Tourism Meeting
    - ii. New State Tourism representative- Drew
    - iii. Governor’s fishing contest – Barron County Hosting 2025 opener
    - iv. Tourism Magazine beginning with APG
  - h. Childcare – Survey recap and meetings in county **WI Rural Housing Grant opportunities 49 responses from businesses- facility grants and expansions**
    - i. Foundation for Rural Housing
  - i. Spring HR Meeting
    - i. May-

- j. **Broadband Update – Mosaic Dunn, Barron, Washburn, and Sawyer Co updates. Beginning in Dunn Co and Washburn/Sawyer Co and then Barron Co areas to all be completed per the PSC guidelines by November 2026. MTech Construction announcement and contractor partner**
- k. Questions?
- 8. **Board member comments/questions? UWEC-BC campus update and current status of 2 year programs across the state, The Salvation Army location needs additional building updates through further investigation for transitional housing. Hillsdale Solar Farm update**
- 9. **RBF Update- No update. Okey stated the county board will appoint a new representative at the next meeting.**
- 10. **Adjourn 9:04 am**

**PLEASE CALL 715-637-6871 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND**

cc: Nordby, Boldig, Skinner, Markgren, Krug, Williams, Fonfara, Gerber, Westphal, Trembly, Beaudette, Miller, Stanford, Williams, County Administrator, Corporation Counsel, Co. Clerk, Webmaster & Public Postings