

WABASHA PORT AUTHORITY AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
City of Wabasha

Minutes of the May 9, 2011, meeting:

BOARD MEMBERS:	Jon Lineweaver	
	Marty Wilson	President
	Atty. Mark Jarstad	Treasurer
	Mayor Rollin Hall	
	Vicki Moore	
	Don Jacoby	
	Charles Bricher	Vice-President
STAFF:	David Schmidt	City Administrator
	Susan Schamaun	City Clerk

The Regular Meeting of the Wabasha Port Authority and Development Agency was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2011, at City Hall and was called to order by Marty Wilson at 4:02 pm.

Roll call found Marty Wilson, Jon Lineweaver, Don Jacoby, Attorney Mark Jarstad, Mayor Hall and Vicki Moore present. Charlie Bricher was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

After discussion, Vicki Moore and Jon Lineweaver moved to approve the April 12, 2011 regular Port Authority minutes as submitted. Adopted unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jon Lineweaver and Mayor Rollin Hall moved to receive and file the April 30, 2011, Treasurer's Report. Adopted unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

None

Anderson House - Update:

David Schmidt reported he spoke with Mr. Brett Reese, Archer House, and it was reported by Mr. Reese that after a more thorough review of the property, the renovations will cost more than what was originally quoted by Gusa Construction. Mr. Reese also reported that by Thursday, Mr. Chuck Paton, Rebound Hospitality, would forward that information. The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation paperwork has been forwarded to Mr. Reese and Mr. Paton .

Rural Business Enterprise Grant Update:

David Schmidt stated he received news the Port Authority's grant application made the cut from Southern Minnesota and is at the State level and it was reported the application scored very high. He stated the Port Authority may hear something around the third week in May.

NEC – Mediation Update:

Attorney Mark Jarstad reported the final draft of the proposed settlement agreement in reference to the NEC HVAC issues with LHB, Inc. has been submitted and he will continue to work on the details of the communication from all parties.

Business Visits Update:

Marty Wilson reported he, Mayor Hall and Vicki Moore made two more business site visits in April. Vicki Moore reported on the following visits:

California Overland: Met with owner Mr. Russell Meyer who reported the following:

- Currently employs approximately 25 people in Wabasha.
- Total payroll (including freelance drivers) of approximately \$8-9 million.
- Has 4.8 acres of land in Industrial Park – sufficient for 200 trucks.
- Approaching capacity and may need more land in near future.
- Has addn. truck servicing location in Greenwood, South Carolina.
- Anticipates another location in Texas later this year.
- Has no trouble finding drivers.
- Revenues have increased four-fold since 2006.
- Business has been steady despite recession.
- Business challenges include increased government regulations, increasing fuel costs, and increasing cost of equipment, increasing workers compensation and health care costs.

Loco Gringos: Met with part-owner Michael Murray-John who reported the following:

- Reported past history of opening Vinifera Restaurant in 2008 and due to poor economy, difficult lease rate and low local patronage, had to close it.
- Opened Loco Gringos in 2009 with focus on lower price point and local trade.
- Host live music.
- Satisfied with Chamber of Commerce.
- Concerned with limited hours of downtown businesses and two hour parking restrictions.
- Welcomes additional restaurants and hotels in town as “crowds beget crowds”.
- Closure of the Anderson House negatively affected his business.
- When the National Eagle Center runs an advertising ad, all downtown businesses benefit.
- Suggested having a trolley system from the marinas to the downtown area to bring boat owners to businesses.
- Suggested making a vacant downtown building into a small retail mall with boutique shops that could have cooperative staffing.

Marty Wilson announced they will be visiting Thomas Industries and Covidien in May and Loon Lake and T-Bones Grill and Bar in June.

Vicki Moore reported that since the creation at the last Port Authority meeting of a subcommittee to collect ideas and comments from people, she has met with Ms. Judith Scott. She is interested in all forms of alternative energy including wind, biomass, river power, solar and biodiesel. Ms. Scott reported she would like to see the City support and/or own an alternative energy business which could allow providing low/no cost energy to new businesses in lieu of TIF Financing. She also felt possibly the river front land, which is currently vacant, could be used for an alternative energy education and training center and stated she would be willing to help explore this concept further.

After discussion, it was suggested having Charles Bricher contact Ms. Judith Scott to discuss her ideas. It was felt with Charles Bricher’s knowledge and background in battery technology etc., it would be a good idea for him to serve in this capacity. Vicki stated she would call Charlie and ask him if he would be interested in meeting with Ms. Scott.

Old Business:

Community Foundation: David Schmidt reported he met with Attorney Mark Jarstad and Vicki Moore and the next step will be communicating with all groups in this area to see how many would

like to join this type of endeavor. He stated he has not heard back from the Southern MN Initiative Foundation but has had a conversation with the director from a Community Foundation from Southern Wisconsin and she has been very forthcoming with information such as gifting policies, funding mechanisms etc.

Don Jacoby reported he was contacted from the Doffing Foundation and they have approved the funding for the downtown clock and would like the Port Authority to handle the funds. It was also stated the clock will be donated to the City. After discussion, it was determined Don Jacoby will contact the Doffing Foundation to tie up loose ends such as installation, maintenance, etc.

Jon Lineweaver and Marty Wilson moved to adjourn at 4:56 p.m. Adopted unanimously.

Respectively Submitted:

Susan Schamaun, City Clerk

Date Approved:
