

Zumbrota Economic Development Authority Minutes
5:30 PM Wednesday, September 20th, 2023
Zumbrota City Hall, 175 West Avenue

PRESENT: Lindsey Raasch, Sarah Durhman, Todd Hammel, and Brian Haugen. Also present are Community Development Director Kurt Meister, City Administrator Brian Grudem.

GUESTS: Kevin Kish, Wayne Anderson, David Grimsrud

NOT PRESENT: Bob Hawley, Dave Dahlen, Terry Johnson

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – at 5:32 PM by Lindsey Raasch

2. **Amend/Adopt Agenda –MOTION HAUGEN**, second DURHMAM to adopt the agenda Carried unanimously.

3. **Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, Aug 23rd, 2023 – MOTION HAUGEN**, second RAASCH to approve the meeting minutes from Wednesday Aug 23rd, 2023. Carried 3-0-2, with Hammel and Durhman abstaining.

4. **Monthly Financial Report & Accounts Payable – MOTION DURHMAN**, second HAMMEL to approve the monthly financial report & accounts payable from July 2023. Meister pointed out the postal expenses were larger due to mailing off community guides around the state. Carried unanimously. Simonson was present to explain the monthly financials and budget to the board.

5. **Public Hearings**
 - A.

6. **Old Business**

- A. **KAAL Presentation** – Meister pointed out the original expense would be \$2000/month, and the current expense would be \$1000/month. McElroy did a good job. Meister is looking to add this to next year's promotional budget for the city. Raasch inquired of feelers for businesses in the city, Haugen looking of CEDA to research possible grants

7. **New Business**

- A. **Possible acquisition of 1st Congregational Church UCC**– Meister shared with the board that the church is looking to close its services but would like possibly have the city take the building over. The building was built in 1862 and is listed on the National Historic Register. Meister, Grudem, whks engineer Mike Shimkus (Dubuque, IA), and congregational member Amy Pahl toured the building on Sept. 14, 2023.

Meister shared pictures of the building and pointed out the structure of building is very good. The building is on the national historic registry; therefore, you cannot update the exterior, new roof from insurance being installed in near future, paint bids being taken. Status of building was shared as well, handicap accessible, with a lift available.

Meister shared examples from Chatfield and Bellechester. Durhman asked about alcohol being used in building, would affect attendance. Hammel is for it, had concerns about parking, possibly making south side a parking lot, due to parking concerns with theatre nearby.

Kish questioned reason for need? Senior center, really likes the south lot of church. Would like to keep (historic) questioned expenses such as hvac, electrical, plenty of meeting spaces in town. Hammel questioned if no one takes over, tear down? City want to take over?

Raasch, will this really be used for dances and such? Who/How will pay to manage, another staff member? Durhman – would increase community inclusion. Haugen shared Lanesboro as an example, that has several buildings that they use – sense of community. Grudem stated the church is interested in keeping building going.

8. **Reports**

- A.

- 9. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.