

BENTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2016

Open The Meeting/Roll Call

Vice-President Buerkle called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM. Members Spencer Buerkle, Warren Peschl, Ed Popp and Jim McMahon were present and Member Jake Bauerly was absent (excused). Also present were Monty Headley, Benton County Administrator; Vicki Feuling, Administrative Assistant; and Keith Youso, Benton County News

Approve/Amend the Agenda

Motion by Member Popp, second by Member Peschl, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Motion by Member McMahon, second by Member Peschl that the 2016 President and Vice-President of the EDA mirror the 2016 Chair and Vice-Chair of the County Board (President Spencer Buerkle, Vice-President Warren Peschl). Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Member Peschl, second by Member McMahon to appoint Vicki Feuling as 2016 EDA Secretary and Ed Popp as 2016 EDA Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve/Amend the Minutes of October 29, 2015

Motion by Member Popp, second by Member McMahon, to approve the minutes of October 29, 2015 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Early Repayment of USDA Economic Development Loans

Headley explained that the current interest income from outstanding loans made by Benton County to local businesses falls well short of covering the annual payments back to USDA on two loans to Benton County (\$4,000 annual interest vs. \$37,000 payments to USDA). He reported that USDA has stated that the County must correct this situation soon to be in compliance with federal regulations.

Headley stated that the County's loan committee discussed this issue on January 6th and recommends that the County's EDA authorize the complete and immediate repayment of both USDA loans; the current outstanding balance on both loans is \$456,000, and will leave the County with \$409,000 for making new loans (without USDA restrictions). Headley pointed out that, according to the USDA (Paul Dornfeld, USDA-Cambridge), early repayment will not impair the County's ability to get new USDA loans in the future.

Motion by Member Popp, second by Member Peschl to authorize the full repayment of outstanding loans from the United States Department of Agriculture Intermediary Relending Program, estimated payoff of approximately \$456,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business/Announcements

Peschl led discussion regarding previous action of the EDA in 2014 to formally write-off the two loans made by Benton County to *Mid-State Custom Cabinets* as being uncollectable; it appears that the former owner of that business is "back in business" in Benton County and "out of

compliance". Headley will inquire of the County Attorney's Office if they wish to pursue civil judgment on behalf of the county, as recommended by the Loan Committee.

Adjourn

Motion by Member Popp, second by Member McMahon to adjourn at 10:28 AM. Motion carried unanimously.