

EDC Meeting

December 14, 2018 Minutes

Present: Ed Kowalski, Courtney Gillison, Mary Carroll, Art Jeannot, Bob Russell and Gary Sauer

Absent: Blake Brooks, Ken Holmes

Also present: Lisa Leedy, AES Executive Director

Agenda – Motion by Jeannot seconded by Carroll to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion carried.

Minutes - Motion by Jeannot seconded by Carroll to approve the October 19, 2018 minutes. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion carried.

Public Input: Chris from Eclipse spoke briefly about his experience, insight and advice regarding broadband and RF relocation. He has also had discussions with Mitch and Coury regarding broadband.

Brief discussion was held regarding grant funding for broadband. Jeannot spoke that perhaps Coury Carland would be a good resource to help with the project. Kowalski, also spoke with Frank Post, Emergency Director re: grant funding. Jeannot also spoke about looking back for the work product that the County paid for years ago with Aspen.

Lisa Leedy, with AES indicated that she may be able to reach out to Aspen, as she has had contact with the former two individuals that worked with Aspen.

Motion by Russell, seconded by Gillison to request permission from the Board of Commissioners to partner with a private broadband company to develop an RFP. All, Nays: None, Motion carried.

Natural Gas Update: Russell met with two Oil and Gas members, has made some new contacts, Lisa put him in touch with a local contractor, who Russell still needs to meet with.

AES Update – Lisa Leedy gave an update to the Board. Highlights were as follows:

- DNR Grants in our area did not get approved, hope to receive some of that money next year.
- Working with a new business in Benzie regarding software, more to come with that later this year.
- Website is up and live, would like to put a link to the URL on the Benzie website, the update to the website will be the responsibility of AES to work on. Lisa to give someone in Administration rights to the page so that it can be edited.

Seasonal worker housing – Partnering with local non-profit, recommends making a small working group to assist with seasonal housing. Carroll, Jeannot and Blake to serve on work group.

Meeting Dates – Discussion was held regarding meeting dates for next year. Will continue the discussion at the next meeting to be held January 24, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

New Old/Business –

- a. Retention Meeting – Only met with one business so far, another meeting scheduled for Monday at 3:00 p.m.
- b. Add Michigan Works to Agenda for a future meeting.
- c. Bylaws – Mitch is working on.
- d. Social Media consideration

Motioned by Gillison to adjourn meeting at 12:43 p.m., seconded by Russell. Ayes: All, Nays: None. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maridee Cutler, Deputy County Administrator
Benzie County