

child care grants and business loan information with both child care centers. The Director assisted Burt's Meats with a mini processors grant by filling out the application while on line with Joann. The Director had many conversations and emails with business owners to assist the local business. All in all, Enerson, the Director, shared Eyota business which applied for DEED funds were assisted and received DEED's first come, come first served funding from the State through CEDA.

- **PEC a site selector request for information for 200 plus:** The Director was made aware of a site selector's request to purchase 200 plus acres with high volume of waste water. Eyota's EDA Director asked People's Energy Cooperative's new EDA staff to take the lead in sending the required information into DEED for the over 175 acres for sale to the west of Eyota. She provided assistance but given the parcels are outside the City, she thought it would be best if three agencies collaborated, with People's Energy submitted the request for information. The current shared waste water system would not be able to handle waste water unless the plant was significantly upgraded. The land is not listed on the State's location finder for site selector called LOIS, Rochester Area Economic Development Inc., will list the site on the state location finder software. RAEDI shared there was a second inquiry from another party interested in the site. The Eyota EDA Director has shared zoning information, sewer information and information about the City for the other agencies to respond to this and other future inquires.
- **Discuss the need to pursue BDPI grant funds, need for turn lane, water/sewer, stud road:** The nail plant project was fully discussed during the update. During the discussion in the bullet point above is a motion to move forward, a motion was made to move forward with a resolution for BDPI grant assistance.
- **A potential local business survey: The board discussed the need to distribute a local business survey** to understand how the local businesses were affected by closing, or the stay at home orders to better understand how the businesses are doing as they reopen, what they might need from the EDA before we begin any new programs to assist new businesses. At this time the survey resented is not recommended by the board. The board felt businesses opening and business is picking up.
- **Grocery store to improve the gas pumps - how do we help beyond what we have been sending:** The Grocery store owners had a family graduation party and could not attend the board meeting. Enerson shared the project to replace pumps. The could cost of the project could be nearly \$100,000. To help with financing at a low interest rate, Enerson has connected the new EDA Director at People's Energy Cooperative to the Bennet's. Enerson research a USDA grant which was brought to her attention, however the program was not applicable for replacing pumps but rather of renewable fuels, she shared the program with Bennets. The board felt due to COVID the grocery store will be given more time by the State to comply. Board members will continue to identify programs to help replace gas pumps/
- **Update - child care businesses:** The child care centers have remained Covid-19 free, one of the biggest fears is being shut down due to a client or working catching the virus. For profit and non-profit loans and grant materials has been sent to each business.
- **Data to present that can help local business expand into other products and services:** Enerson shared a power point created by Krackerjack marketing for CEDA using grant funds. Eyota can attract or assist a business using the data to showcase within a small radius the business potential for a potential product or service. The board looked a several products or services that could enhance Eyota's business district.
- **Discuss a possible business incubator program:** With new data to support attracting new business to Eyota, the board at the next meeting will continue to work with programming and funding to be used to incubate and attract new business to Eyota.

5. Director & Council Reports

- **The Arbor Gardens Hold back is completed:** \$50,000 was sent to the City less the \$25 wiring fee. The Arbor Gardens transfer is complete. Enerson has spoken with their Director, Dena, Dena has been training without onsite assistance from the corporate office due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The senior housing residents and staff have been Covid-19 free. The residents signed new leases with the new owners. There is no increase in resident's rents. Each apartment's rent will increase based on the annual renewal dates, just like any other apartment building. In the past there was a blanket increase once a year for all residents. There are plans to expand one of the assisted living wings by adding a sun room that can also be used when someone is quarantined. The number of memory care units will be increased once the residents are able to have outside people in an around their home. There owners will need to ask for a variance to use a corner of an existing planning buffer strip of land for the sunroom project. When B&C built their building, the EDA was made aware of the buffer strip to the North of Arbor Gardens between the commercially zoned property and the senior apartment building. There is additionally a buffer strip to the south of Arbor Gardens to transition the senior housing to residential housing.
- **Mini Processors grant completed:** Enerson and the Burt's submitted a request for \$5,000 to increase cold storage at their processing location in the city of Eyota.
- **Need to get back at the Fed Disaster Relief Grant** – The EDA will need a current SAM's number from the City to proceed: The City Clerk will need to renew the number for Enerson to continue.
- **Assistance for Disaster Relief Funding:** Enerson will need to continue to work on this, grant writing was interrupted by Covid-19 funding relief for businesses.
- **Council Members report:** The Mayor informed the board about the circumstances surrounding a wall that collapsed at a commercial building with vacant apartments in town. CMS inspected the reconstruction.
- **Zoning for additional housing:** Rick Verhenkamp's land was rezoned to R-2.

6. Other: Jason Banditt and Tyrel Clark have each submitted an application to fill the EDA board seat that will be vacated once the Higgins resignation is accepted by the board. Each of their applications were sent to board members today, there was not enough meeting time for each to go into more about themselves. Each of them were encouraged to contact board members to share more about why they want to become an EDA board member. The board will add replacing Darcy, and accepting Darcy's resignation to their next agenda

7. Next Meeting: The fourth Thursday of June, regular meeting at the Eyota fire hall.

Adjourn: At 6:20 pm motion by Tony Nelson and motion seconded by Craig Horan to adjourned the meeting, without further discussion the board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

 8/13/20

Cathy Enerson, EDA Director
date

 8-13-20

Dale Heintz, EDA Chair