

**MINUTES
OF
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS &
PINE COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRA) / ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)
Strategic Planning
Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Board Room, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota**

Commissioner Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren, and Matt Ludwig. Also present was County Administrator David Minke. Due to an out-of-town commitment, Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02. Commissioner Waldhalm was seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at a location open and accessible to the public, and participated from 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrerero, Arecibo PR.

Also present were HRA/EDA board members Mary Kay Sloan, Henry Fischer and Leah Jackson.

Also present was Jordan Zeller, Economic Developer with East Central Regional Development Commission.

Those present introduced themselves.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

County Administrator David Minke provided an overview of the meeting process and reviewed the change in structure to the HRA. On January 4, the county board adopted Resolution 2022-02 assigning the EDA powers to the HRA. Commissioners Ludwig and Waldhalm were appointed as liaisons to the HRA. This new structure will allow the county HRA/EDA to provide leadership to housing and economic development in Pine County.

Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter provided an overview of economic development, housing, county workforce and employment information. Sauter also provided an overview of EDA information for the cities of Pine City, Hinckley, and Sandstone.

Chair Hallan called a recess for lunch at 11:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

The county board and HRA/EDA board identified the following Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats:

Strengths: recreation, two successful housing units (HRA), location/convenient and close, staff/board members, structure, FCI, education/PTCC, wineries/breweries, casino,

hospital/healthcare, shovel ready sites/land, rail access, tech and industrial park, state park/forests, property tax/moderate tax rate, HRA/EDA fiscal stability, 49ers training center, valuable lakeshore, natural beauty, Osprey Wilds, volunteers, artsy culture, county fair, faith based and youth athletic volunteers, 4-H, local government, law enforcement.

Weakness: broadband/finding broadband, cell service, affordable housing, size/transportation, EMS/response, mental health/addiction, patchwork of zoning, ATV trails, lack of trade workers, lack of business diversity, underused natural resources, lack of tourism.

Opportunities: broadband, limited private sector business, business incubator, agriculture/value added, bike trail, PTCC, marketing what we have, building on existing small business and natural amenities (way finding), business retention and expansion, local entrepreneurs, HRA/EDA, available space.

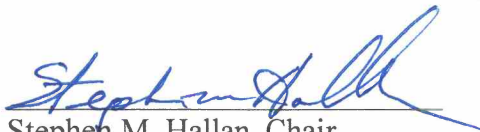
Threats: Lack of sense of community, lack of broadband, lack of funding, competition/commuting distance, competing with ourselves, perception of distance, activities, negative rural narrative, empty store fronts, out migration/brain drain, aging and decreasing population, trailing spouses/lack of diversity in job opportunity, stressor on county budget.

The following items were identified as first year goals:

Broadband, child care, housing, advertising/branding, connect with local governments (cities/townships/tribe), business retention and expansion, inventory of housing projects, North Court apartments, DEED grant rehabilitation (SCDP), rail service sites, list of available properties ready for development, October annual joint meeting with county board and HRA/EDA, metrics and results, incentives, jobs/housing/tax base.

- Economic Development
- Broadband
- County Attorney Office workload

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.


Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners


David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to the Pine County Board of Commissioners