

**Wabasso EDA
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm with board members Pat Eichten, Chad Altermatt and Chuck Robasse (via Zoom) present. Also present were Larry Thompson, McKenzie Fischer, Pat Dingels, Jeff Olson, Tim Goblirsch, Veanne Battistini and Carol Atkins.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes of the March 1, 2023, meeting was approved on a motion by Robasse, second by Altermatt. Eichten – yes; Altermatt – yes; Robasse – yes.

Water Softer: Mr. Thompson presented quotes for the replacement of water softeners at the five plex. Mr. Olson stated he and Mr. Thompson and Public Works Director Jim Jenniges had reviewed the quotes and recommended the proposal by EcoWater Systems be accepted. Mr. Olson added the board had the option of purchasing or renting. Motion by Altermatt, second by Robasse, to accept the proposal by EcoWater Systems and to rent at \$33/month/unit.

Eichten – yes; Altermatt – yes; Robasse – yes.

Daycare – Goblirsch Motors. Mr. Thompson presented an update on the daycare center and the potential of the EDA purchasing Mr. Goblirsch's building for such use. Mr. Thompson presented an overview of the tour Mr. Eichten and he had been given by the City of Franklin's project. Mr. Thompson also gave an update on the phase I environmental study. Mr. Thompson added that Mr. Goblirsch had been approached by WAFER to lease a portion of his building for the food shelf program and a number of questions had been raised regarding the level of interest the HRA had in purchasing the building and length of lease. Mr. Eichten stated the EDA had interest in the building but was at the very preliminary stages of gathering information. The EDA did not have a buyer or end user at this time. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need for WAFER to find a home, the lack of available property, the need for and timing of an environmental study, and status at this time. It was the consensus of the board that it was not prepared to act or commit at this time.

Duplex – Mr. Thompson indicated that construction costs were about the same as when the EDA last bid on the duplex property. Mr. Thompson indicated he and Mr. Eichten had met with Renville County EDA commissioner Joe Sullivan to discuss possible ways to move forward. Mr. Sullivan believed that the cities in the area were too small to act on their own, and suggested a forum of cities, Renville and Redwood Counties, and other agencies be called to look at doing a cooperative venture. Mr. Sullivan would be happy to discuss with the EDA.

Park Grant – Ms. Dingels presented an overview of potential park grants. Ms. Dingels state that due to the expense of requiring professional services to provide required information for the application, construction requirements and competitiveness, the EDA not pursue a grant. Mr. Eichten stated he would contact the Lion's Club before the EDA took action.

Business Spotlight – Ms. Fischer presented the April Business Spotlight – Mid County Ag.

Hwy 68 Corridor Study – Mr. Thompson presented a draft zoning map, noting the committee will meet on April 18th to review the draft zoning map and draft zoning ordinance.

Downtown Beautification – Mr. Thompson presented photos of the planters the Commercial Club were planning to install and that they were also looking at banners and adding to the Christmas lights.

Tax Forfeited Property – Mr. Thompson noted a parcel in the downtown area was on the county's tax forfeiture list, but it appears the issue has been resolved.

Treasurer's Report – Motion by Altermatt, second by Robasse, to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Eichten – yes; Altermatt – yes; Robasse – yes.

Bills – Motion by KGuetter, second by Altermatt to approve the bills as follows: General Checking: Novak Law - \$371.56

Eichten – yes; Altermatt – yes; Robasse – yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Larry J Thompson