

**MINUTES OF PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
*Special Meeting Committee of the Whole*

**Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

**Pine County Health and Human Services Building, Sandstone, MN**

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Mitch Pangerl, Steve Chaffee, and Curt Rossow. Also present were County Attorney John Carlson, County Auditor-Treasurer Cathy Clemmer, and County Administrator David Minke.

Others Present:

Nancy Hoffman, Chisago County HRA/EDA Executive Director  
Jordan Zeller, Economic Development Coordinator, ECRDC

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Auditor Clemmer asked to add a discussion of liquor licensing for businesses which owe back taxes. Auditor Clemmer explained that currently three businesses have liquor licenses and owe back taxes totaling approximately \$70,000. The amount represents property taxes due to all taxing jurisdictions—city/township/school/county. After discussion, the board requested the auditor work with the county attorney to prepare an update to the licensing ordinance.

Chair Hallan explained that the county has been considering its role in economic development for a long time. Recently the county had met with representatives from various cities and EDA's in the county and there was support for the county to increase its role in economic development.

Nancy Hoffman described her work and organization in Chisago County. The EDA/HRA is governed by a separate five-member board and has two county commissioners as liaisons. Staff consists of an executive director and administrative assistant. The combined EDA/HRA has seven housing projects and is invested in four industrial parks. The county typically uses tax abatement for financing rather than TIF. The annual levy for EDA purposes is about \$500,000-\$600,000.

Pine County created an HRA in the early 1970's. No county commissioners are on the board. One option is to consider using the HRA as the development authority.

Hoffman stated that she does Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) work in conjunction with cities in the county. She has also worked with businesses to access state assistance and tax credits.

How does Chisago value the economic development work? Hoffman stated that it is a long-term perspective: focus on increased property values and taxes, jobs, as well as agri-tourism such as a winery that just opened.

Chisago County administers SCDP grants for cities.

What would make a business want to relocate from the cities? Hoffman responded, less expensive land and labor force. The location might also be closer to markets or suppliers.

It was thought the value of county leadership in economic development is that there can be a central clearing house/point of contact for information and better coordination between cities.

What are Chisago County's goals? Hoffman responded that there are a number of them with steps. Tourism is important so there are some goals. Pat Oman had some measures for Carlton County.

Jordan Zeller reviewed a handout of what other city/counties do. Some counties have EDAs with staff, some without dedicated staff, and others have economic development staff but not authorities. •

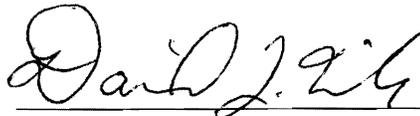
There was a consensus of the council to include a new staff position focused on economic development in the 2014 budget. Key areas of focus are:

- 1) Support local businesses--Business Retention and Expansion (BRE)
- 2) Leverage state/federal program
- 3) Coordinate activities among the cities/townships in the county.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Stephen M. Hallan, Board Chair  
Pine County Board of Commissioners



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