

CITY OF VERGAS EDA/HRA
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
9:00 am
Zoom Meeting

The City of Vergas Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) met on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Zoom with the following members present Kevin Zitzow, Duane Strand, Bruce Albright, Paul Pinke, Vanessa Perry and Julie Lammers. Absent: none. Also present: Barbie Porter of Vergas-Frazee Forum and Jason Schik.

Meeting was called to order by President Kevin Zitzow.

Approve agenda as presented.

Motion by Strand, seconded by Perry to approve October 7, 2020 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed current finances of the EDA/HRA.

Old Businesses:

Jason Schik, a member of the New York Mills EDA discussed operations of the New York Mills EDA: Gap Funding to either start a new business or grow a business, matched the Otter Tail County build project, daycare grants, walking trail, welcome packets, Southpoint, and Lead for America program. The Lead for America program will train an individual to work and live in their community for 2 years, working with economic development to fill empty businesses and get current buildings repaired as well as applying for grants.

Lammers had emailed out information from other communities with EDAs. The Detroit Lakes Economic Developer has stated he would join one of our meetings and discuss their goals. Members asked Lammers to invite him to the December meeting.

Schik reviewed the structural assessment for 105 E Main Street.

The City needs a storm shelter and Otter Tail County is in the process of updating their local mitigation plan. There are grants for storm shelters if we are interested in making the basement a storm shelter. Members questioned the amount of the grants and Lammers stated she would find numbers for next month's meeting. Albright stated long range planning for Vergas needs to be done before proceeding with this project and Perry mentioned if we do not know what is going to be in the building it is difficult to proceed. Zitzow will talk to Matt Malone of BHH regarding replacement value of building. Lammers will contact Patrick Waletzko, Safety & Emergency Services Director for Otter Tail County. Schik mentioned CDA funds available thru Otter Tail County.

New Businesses:

No new business was on the agenda.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Julie Lammers
Secretary of the EDA