

**Vermilion County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium  
And Office Building Authority**

Minutes of the Board of Directors

March 24, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

- Present:** John Spezia, Chairperson; Tara Auter, Scott Dowers, Bob Iverson, Ken Salomon, Maruti Seth, and Dean Shore.
- Absent:** Bill Black, Catlin Crozier, Carley Fredericks and O. J. Harrison.
- Attending:** Joe Dunagan, Andrew Mudd, Janet Payne, Don Wright, and Teri Gaffney.
- Guests:** Reese McCoy.
- Call to Order:** John Spezia called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- Pledge:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members. It was suggested that we invite a school group to a future meeting to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call:** The roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Board of Directors of February 24, 2021 were reviewed. *It was moved by Dean Shore, seconded by Tara Auter, and carried to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of February 24, 2021, as presented.*

**Public Comments:** None received. Reese McCoy was introduced to the Board of Directors. Ms. McCoy administers our Facebook page and will be creating the webpage.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Building & Grounds Committee** – The minutes of the Committee meetings of February 22, 2021 and March 17, 2021, were reviewed. It was reported that the storage building is progressing slowly. An estimate has been received from the contractor for the removal of the trees and a utility pole. It was noted that once the construction had been started that the City stopped the project. The Mayor has agreed that the project could proceed if we removed the trees and the utility pole. It was the consensus of the members that additional bids for the project be received. Mr. Shore will confirm with Mr. Saikley that monies from the Hegeler Bequest could be used for this project.

Three bids for the Security Access for the building were reviewed. The Board asked for clarification regarding the software on the bid from one of the companies. More information will be obtained prior to a final approval of a bid.

**Finance Committee** – The minutes of the Committee meetings of February 22, 2021 and March 17, 2021, were reviewed. Mr. Shore reported that we are awaiting a final statement from Total Mechanical. The Arena recently received its monthly monies from the City in the amount of \$19,040.79. Mr. Shore suggested that the Committee consider paying into the Unemployment system as well as evaluation of its retirement plan for employees.

It was noted that no action will be taken on the signage for the Arena until the Board has a presentation next month from Ms. Hill of the Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation. It was the consensus of the members present that a Watchfire sign is desired at the corner area as well as improved signage at the skating rink entrance.

**Human Resource Ad Hoc Committee** – Mr. Dowers reported that the Ad Hoc Committee was formed a few months ago. Janet Payne, the new Human Resource Manager, was introduced to the Board. Ms. Payne highlighted her experienced for the Board's information. She has been assessing employee records, policies, and procedures. She has met with all full-time and regularly scheduled part-time employees. Her goal is to create an environment that the employees will perform at the highest level. Ms. Payne will be invited to attend the monthly Board meetings to provide a report.

Mr. Dowers also stated that he has asked Ms. Payne, Ms. Gaffney and Mr. Dunagan to work on developing a Board Retreat for the near future.

**Audit Ad Hoc Committee** – Mr. Seth reported that no update has been received.

**Hockey Ad Hoc Committee** - Mr. Seth reported that the agreement with the Vermillion County Bobcats has been finalized and was executed last week.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None reported.

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

**General Manager's Report** – Mr. Dunagan reported that Greg Tissier has reported that the Arena was not successful in its request to obtain the ERC credit. However, Mr. Tissier believes that we are still entitled to the credit and has offered to refund us the \$7,500 and complete an appeal and, if successful, to pay him a percentage of the proceeds received. The Board extensively discussed the options. Mr. Shore will schedule a phone conference with Mr. Tissier to discuss the proposals and the Board will meet again to act upon the proposal.

It was reported that during the recent rains that there were some major roof leaks. The Facilities staff cleaned the gutters and drains and are working to resolve the issues. There is also a leak in the locker room that is possibly linked to some of the drillings that had been done. Mr. Wright is working to resolve this.

The timeclock system is being evaluated. It will be moved to another area for the employees.

Mr. Dunagan asked if it may be appropriate to have an official position statement prepared by lawyer regarding COVID and how we manage events going forward. We are presently at 50% capacity or 50 persons, whichever is less. It was noted that the Governor will announce updates on the situation on April 3<sup>rd</sup> so we may re-evaluate after that time.

Mr. Dunagan reported that he had met with organizers of *Festival of Trees* and it was a very positive meeting with a good exchange of information. Work will continue to come to an agreement.

With regards to a Board Retreat, Mr. Dunagan asked the members for availability for a Saturday retreat.

The members were reminded that there will be a press conference via Zoom on Wednesday regarding the Illiana Hall of Fame.

**NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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John Spezia, Chairperson