



CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417

### **Grand Haven EDC/BRA Special Meeting, September 11, 2023**

#### **Meeting called to order by Chairperson Bonamy at 4:00 pm. Roll Call:**

Present: Bob Monetza, Linda Weavers, Eric Schmidt, Joy Gaasch, Bill Van Lopik, Jim Bonamy

Absent: Brook Bisonet, Mike Fritz, Tom Braciak

Also Present: Ashley Latsch, Emily Greene, Tim Price. Elizabeth Butler

#### **Approval of Minutes of August 7, 2023, and August 14, 2023, meetings:**

Motion by Gaasch, second by Weavers, carried unanimously.

#### **Call to the Audience:**

No response.

#### **Economic Incentive Policy, Qualified Financial Reviewer Discussion:**

During the review of the Policy by City Council, questions were raised and referred to the EDC/BRA Board regarding the Qualified Financial Reviewer for applicants for abatements and incentives.

Bonamy stated that, in the past, a preliminary review would be done by the City Manager, the Mayor, and one member of the EDC/BRA Board. They would agree whether to forward the application to the full EDC/BRA Board. Gaasch described the role of a committee of the Chamber in screening the application. Confidentiality of business information is a concern for the applicant during review. The review process does not create a public document. Discussion occurred among members regarding risk, exposure, and confidentiality issues.

Loans of EDC funds are also subject to this review process.

Gaasch noted that some council members wanted to see the review and she was concerned about the loss of confidentiality. The Chamber is contracted to work on economic development for the City; Gaasch wondered if council members are uncomfortable with that.

Schmidt questioned why we would change the process. Council is concerned that a strong, formal process should be in place.

City of Holland and Ottawa County outsource their reviews. Lakeshore Advantage may be available for this work. Ashley will contact the SBA for information. A third-party review should be within our market area to be a credible process.

At 4:45 pm, Schmidt left the meeting.

Transferability of incentives and abatements was briefly discussed, and would be subject to approval by city council.

**Report by City Manager:**

Nothing further.

**Updates:**

Greene stated that the small claims court date for delinquent loans was delayed to 10/16/2023.

**Motion to Adjourn by Gaasch, second by Van Lopik, carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.**