



IRON COUNTY

ECONOMIC CHAMBER ALLIANCE

October 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Iron River City Hall

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

3:30 pm

President Mike Bjork called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - a. Trustees Present: Mike Bjork, Nikki Hebert, Rick Kinsey, Scott Abata, Hannah Goodman
 - b. Trustees Excused: Anthony Dallavalle, Kevin Schmutzler, Joseph Parker, Cathy Peruzzi-Richardson
 - c. Others in Attendance: Executive Director Zach Hautala, Assistant Director Brett Smithson, County Commissioner Mike Stafford, Iron River City Manager Rachel Andreski
2. Agenda Approval (with addition of New Business #5 “ICECA Members' Dues Amount” and #6 “Employee Compensation”)
 - a. Motion by Nikki, Second by Hannah – Voice Vote: All in Favor
3. Approval of August 2024 Minutes
 - a. Motion by Rick, Second by Mike – Voice Vote: All in Favor

4. Financial Report – August & September Financials

- a. Motion by Rick, Second by Nikki – Voice Vote: All in Favor

5. Old Business

- a. SCS Housing Development and Other Iron County Housing Initiatives

- i. Zach gave a verbal update that the extension of the road and utilities at the building site in Crystal Falls is slated to begin in October and be finished in November. Danielson Construction out of Baraga will be doing the work. This will be an increase of 7% of housing in Crystal Falls. New Porter LLC in Alpha has installed their new roof to prevent any more water damage. They are going to start their next phase of cleaning out some of the main areas soon. The Iron River City Hall has also received a proposal for development of apartment units. More details will be announced when they become available.

- b. Advertising in MARVAC and Camp Michigan Literature

- i. Presented the board with a printout of what will be included in the Camp Michigan magazine. They print between 100,000-125,000 copies and are located all throughout Michigan. There were only 2 UP campgrounds/resorts that advertised in the magazine last year. They were located just North of Manistique and on Drummond Island, East of St. Ignace. If it is the same again this year, we will be the only campground west of Manistique to be listed in the magazine.

6. New Business

- a. H&H Review

- i. Presented the board with the ending financials from the event. Another successful event with an estimation of 2,500-3,000 people in attendance.

- b. ICECA Members Promotion Only

- i. Presented the board with a list of 12 items that will be members only as of January 1st, 2025. For the most part, we only promote our

members, but some members are still getting the benefits of being a member without paying their yearly dues. Nearly 36% of our eat & drink guide are not members. It is our goal to have an accurate list to present to the board in November to get this policy into place.

c. CD Rates

- i. Our CD with Edward Jones will be maturing around October 10th. We would like to invest these funds in CDs at local banking institutions. All rates presented to the board were with one of our members. Rick suggested that we ladder these funds into a 6, 12, 18, and 24-month CD so there will always be money becoming available regularly. Mike suggested that Rick and Zach work together on this to get the money into the best CDs possible. There was a motion made by Rick to ladder the money at \$15,000 per CD into a 6, 12, 18, and 24-month CD and a second by Hannah. A roll call vote was taken: Yes- 4, No- 0, Abstain- 1, Absent- 4.

d. 2025 Budget

- i. A proposed budget was presented to the board for 2025. This budget did not include any salaries for the Executive Director and Assistant Director as those will be discussed later. Each board member was given time to review the proposed budget and offer any suggestions to it. Rick made one suggestion that we add a line item to the ICECA expenses for up to \$2,000 to be used for professional development. Whether that be in person or virtual classes to continue to learn and grow. No other board members had any changes. There was a motion made by Rick to approve the proposed 2025 budget with the addition of a \$2,000 professional development line item under ICECA expenses as written with the blanks in the compensation lines for the Executive Director and Assistant Director, and a second by Scott. A roll call vote was taken: Yes- 5, No- 0, Absent- 4. Motion carried.

- e. ICECA Member Dues Amount
 - i. A suggestion that was at the county board meeting and at the executive committee meeting that it is time to raise the dues of yearly memberships. These amounts are the same as when the ICECA was formed in 2017 and looking to keep pace with the increased cost of everything else today. We will compare our costs with some of our neighboring counties, and then think of an appropriate percentage that they will raise. Rick thinks that around a 10% raise would be sufficient. Zach and Brett will look at comparisons and present to the board in November what they suggest.
 - f. Employee Compensation
 - i. The Executive Committee had met and put together what they thought was appropriate compensation for the Executive Director and Assistant Director. This was presented to everyone at the meeting. Mike suggested that everyone take home the budget and the employee compensation sheets and review them and bring any questions to the November meeting and get the budget approved.
7. Executive Director Updates
- a. Zach gave a verbal update on his September update.
8. Visitor Comments
- a. Mike Stafford- Stated that the 2025 county budget is out for public review and is located on their website (www.ironmi.com)
9. Trustee Comments
- a. Mike Bjork- Stated that the progress of the New Porter LLC building is moving forward nicely. The new roof has been installed.
10. Adjourn
- a. Motion by Hannah, Second by Nikki – Voice Vote: All in Favor (4:30 pm)

Minutes submitted by Assistant Director Brett Smithson