

MENOMINEE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

December 17, 2024

****APPROVED****

The Menominee County Economic Development Committee met on December 17, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Menominee County Courthouse in Menominee, Michigan.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Westrich at 3:00 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

III. Roll Call

Present: Chair Westrich, Commissioner Aubert, & County Administrator - Jason Carviou.

Absent: Commissioner Gromala & County Treasurer – Barb Parrett.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Aubert, seconded by Chair Westrich to approve the agenda. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. Approval of Previous Minutes (May 28, 2024)

Motion made by Administrator Carviou, seconded by Chair Westrich to approve the previous meeting minutes from May 28, 2024. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Business

A. Menominee/Marinette Regional Guide

Administrator Carviou mentioned that it is time to start thinking about the County's advertisement in the Menominee/Marinette Regional Guide. Now, is the time to start

considering any changes that the Committee would like to make, as Cindy Boyle usually comes to discuss the Menominee/Marinette Regional Guide in late-winter/early spring with the guides being published in April/May.

B. Menominee County Motorized Trail System

Chair Westrich is working to schedule a meeting with the Hannahville Indian Community to discuss expanding the motorized trail system in Menominee County. The goal is to get this meeting scheduled before the next Economic Development Committee.

C. Menominee County Hotel Room Tax

Administrator Carviou provided a summary of a legal opinion that was received from the County's corporation counsel regarding a county room tax:

- State statute only permits counties with a population of less than 600,000 AND a city within the county with a population of 40,000 or more to levy a room tax. Menominee County does not meet these criteria because the County does not have a city with a population of 40,000 or more.
- It is the opinion of the County's corporation counsel, that there is no legal authority for Menominee County to impose a hotel room tax. This would require the legislature to amend the statute and change the criteria. The only option that could be a possibility mentioned by corporation counsel was a millage.

Administrator Carviou also received an email from Devin Olson, City Manager of the City of Munising. It was stated that Alger County does not levy a lodging excise tax – for the same reasons stated by corporation counsel, as Alger County does not meet the criteria. There is a Munising Convention and Visitors Bureau, which a non-government organization made up of tourism businesses in the community (similar to the Chamber of Commerce) and they self-levy an occupancy tax on their members – the money is collected by the Convention and Visitors Bureau and they direct how the money will be used to support the organization and tourism advertising/marketing.

The Committee agreed that a room tax levied by Menominee County is not feasible based on this information.

D. Other Business

Administrator Carviou advised that the Menominee Business Development Corporation is still trying to hire an Executive Director. So far, the MBDC has received three applications – but the other members of the Executive Committee don't seem eager to set-up interviews.

E. Meeting Schedule

The Committee decided to start meeting quarterly starting in February 2025. The first meeting will be before the first county board meeting in February 2025 and then meetings will be scheduled before the first county board meetings in May, August, & November unless rescheduled. The Committee can call special meetings in between these planned meetings if necessary.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Commissioner Comment

None

X. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Aubert, seconded by Administrator Carviou to adjourn. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MEETING ADJOURNED