

**MENOMINEE COUNTY ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting

May 28, 2024

\*\*APPROVED\*\*

The Menominee County Economic Development Committee met on May 28, 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 3:09 PM.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**III. Roll Call**

Present: Chair Westrich, Commissioner Gromala, Commissioner Aubert – arrived at 3:34 PM, County Administrator - Jason Carviou, & Menominee County Treasurer – Barb Parrett.

Absent: None

**IV. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Gromala, seconded by Treasurer Parrett to approve the agenda. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. Approval of Previous Minutes (April 23, 2024)**

Motion made by Treasurer Parrett, seconded by Commissioner Gromala to approve the previous meeting minutes from April 23, 2024. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. Public Comment**

None

## **VII. Business**

### *A. Menominee County Destination/Visitor Guide*

#### *a. Request for Qualifications – Marketing/Tourism Consulting Firm*

Administrator Carviou advised that the County’s attorney could not find any prohibition on municipalities selling advertisements in the State of Michigan. However, the attorney did raise possible First Amendment concerns that could have unintended consequences for the County. Primarily, the concern was that a government entity could not restrict the nature of the content; therefore, if an adult entertainment business or dispensary wanted to pay for an ad, the County could not prohibit it based on the subject matter alone. The attorney advised that in most other municipalities that he sees do something like this it is through a tourism authority, destination marketing organization, or visitors bureau – something that is a non-profit or private, so they have more control over the content.

The Committee decided to hold-off on publishing a request for qualifications at this time over the concerns brought up by the County’s attorney.

### *B. Menominee County Motorized Trail System*

Commissioner Westrich stated that she spoke to Representative Prestin, and that he is working with the Michigan DNR & the Hannahville Indian Community on establishing some connecting trails to the casino. Commissioner Westrich is going to reach out to the Hannahville Indian Community directly to see if there is anything that Menominee County do to help to establish more trails. Commissioner Westrich is also going to take a tour of the trails that are locate din the county.

### *C. Menominee County Hotel Room Tax*

Commissioner Gromala stated that he has reached out to the City of Munising regarding their hotel room tax, but has not received a response yet. Administrator Carviou will check with the County’s attorney on clarifying the State’s hotel room tax laws and if they are aware of any avenue for Menominee County to implement a hotel room tax.

### *D. Meeting Schedule*

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2024 at 3 PM – just before the County Board Meeting.

### *E. Open Discussion*

The Committee discussed the possibility of including a Menominee County Visitor Guide within the Menominee/Marinette Regional Guide, such as a center-fold tear-out that someone could then take with them.

## **VIII. Public Comment**

None

**IX. Commissioner Comment**

None

**X. Adjournment**

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

*MEETING ADJOURNED*