

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
WORKSESSION MINUTES
March 25, 2009

Mayor Hakes called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members present: Sue Hakes, William Lenz, Jan Sivertson, Tim Kennedy and Kay Costello

Members absent: None

Others present: Mike Roth, Don Davison and Kim Dunsmoor, Matt Geretschlaeger, and Bruce Martinson

The purpose of the worksession was to get more information about the EDA and to get an idea of what is going on and give direction from the city. Geretschlaeger gave the council a handout outlining the broad abilities of an Economic Development Authority.

There are two entities threatening litigation at the current time: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Northern Communities Land Trust.

About \$ 2 million has already been spent on the Cedar Grove Business Park and we need to sell lots in order to pay off the bond. Lots sell for \$75,000 per lot and there are 34 lots in the park. The strategy for selling lots included developing a website and creating signage for the park. The bond payment is due in January 2010 and we will need to refinance the project.

The EDA completed the housing study and jointly with Lake County created the housing program. This project has been very successful. We have received 24 vouchers to assist homeowners with energy efficient upgrades. Prior to this project, all the vouchers went to Duluth.

To own and operate a golf course in these economic times is sheer will power. There is a lot of bonded indebtedness. The golf course creates employment and helps businesses in the area. A golf course committee has been formed to provide oversight to management operations and fiscal responsibilities. There is grant money available to build cart paths at Superior National: however, due to the amount of impervious service, this engages the MPCA with storm water improvements, approval, design, and implementation. There is a Friends of Superior National Golf Course Advocacy and Advice group and UMD graduate students are working on a marketing plan to find a better way to brand and market the golf course.

New projects include creating a strategy to sell the Cedar Grove Business lots, create a business plan for an events pavilion and a multi-facility garage.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.