

**HARDING COUNTY ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

Regular Meeting – April 24, 2007 – 6:30pm – Roy

MINUTES

CALL ORDER

Members in Attendance – Officers - Bob Bachen, *President*; Mario Gonzales, *VP*; Sharon Callahan, *Secretary*; Shawn Jeffrey, *Treasurer*. **Members** – Bobby Casados, Ward Garrison

Members Absent – Blair Clavel, Debra Garcia, Rick Hazen, Donna Milson, Barbara Shaw. Committee Chair, **HTC** – Tuda Crews

Recognition of Others – Paul Cooper, Kim Mitchell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – (*Submitted for Action*)

At 6:45pm the meeting was called to order. President Bachen reported he had proxy votes from both Barbara Shaw and Debra Garcia who are unable to attend tonight's meeting. Approval of the Agenda and proxy voting was made with a **Motion by Garrison, seconded by Gonzales and passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*Written Report Submitted for Record*)

Minutes of 3.27.07 meeting were reviewed with two corrections noted by Secretary Callahan. Corrected printouts not available due to computer server problems, however these corrected minutes will be e-mailed again to all members for their records.

TREASURER'S REPORT (*Written Report Submitted for Record*)

Treasurer Shawn Jeffrey presented the financial report to date for April listing the *Revenue, Expenditures and Balance and the Account Breakout of Expenses*. **To date, FNB final total balance of accounts is \$27,566.53.** Jeffrey reported on the listed invoices to be approved for payment - \$150 Sherry Romine re monthly USDA Account; \$500.79 Pendleton Utility Service. **Motion to accept Treasurer's Report was made by Gonzales, seconded by Garrison and passed unanimously.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT –

The USDA Roy Building is still pending completion as we are awaiting finishing detail work. Nothing has yet been resolved regarding the tile flooring. Bachen advised he is still working with the engineers and will go with their recommendation for the final building acceptance approval.

Bachen reported there was a decent turnout of almost 30 attendees at last night's public Mesa Theater Community Planning Session and noted several Board Members were present. He reported Elmo Baca and the facilitator Yolanda Archuleta did an excellent job in managing all the public input.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board Member letters from Callahan and Cooper for New Business Agenda Items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CO2 Drilling Informational Report – Kim Mitchell

Kim reported she recently approached President Bachen to discuss upcoming CO2 drilling by the Hess Corporation. Mitchell advised she participated in conversations re housing, hotels, restaurants, gas, food, and other 24/7 retail services. Basically, due to lack of these services, distance and transportation needs in Harding County, Hess plans to put in their own company town. The drilling process is going to be massive and quick...in and out business action. Mitchell expressed concern for the Harding County community and asked what the **HCecdc** is doing to deal with this business impact? Kim said time is short; that the drilling will be happening soon and Hess needs to be addressed immediately.

Commissioner Casados reported the Commissioners have been having ongoing meetings with Hess and had a meeting with Oxy on April 24 in Clayton; that they plan to meet and hire an attorney on May 2, and have a public meeting on April 3rd with Hess. Casados also said about 4months ago at a meeting in Deming, he checked out some fiberglass barns used for the Border Patrol Training.

Conversation skipped around on several topics...Bachen suggested a informal survey be done to prepare a brochure of county services for the Hess Company. There was inquiry about the Meredith's and gas potential in Mosquero. Jeffery advised Meredith's held up in NV due to prolonged selling of their house.

Much discussion centered on the need for a sound sustainable economic plan that has cooperation from all the county entities. With a cohesive plan for capital outlays for Hess, Harding County can help Hess help us. Kim noted Northeast New Mexico (*Harding, Quay & Union*) with North West Texas have some of the richest energy resources available. Kim also noted that our **HCecdc** is under scrutiny...locally, regionally, statewide, etc. Kim stressed the county, the municipalities, and **HCecdc** needs to have very specific goals and objectives i.e. Grid Voltage Permission, WiFi and phone towers, short and long range project plans. Casados and Jeffery advised legislature/state are always cutting back on the county/villages long range planning funding. A meeting with the Governor transpired summer of '06 re Project Red and GRIP Hwy plans with Commissioners, mayors and Representative Campos. Kim informed the Board it would be good to find out who might want to sell land, as some Hess workers might be interested. Kim stressed again that the Economic Plan must have shared objectives for the entire county. Kim advised the HTC group has teams working on economic development plans and that **HCecdc and everyone in the county** needs to get on the same page. Paul Cooper asked Kim if she would be willing to help with these important considerations and Kim replied that she would.

Proxy Voting Permission

President Bachen contacted Barbara Shaw by phone advising we needed her formal proxy vote to be able to have the quorum to conduct business. **Motion was made by**

Callahan to accept proxy voting permission from Shaw for tonight's business. Seconded by Gonzales, and passed unanimously.

Solano Manufacturing Business Update – Barbara Shaw Absent

President Bachen advised Barbara Shaw had spoken with Vince who reported he had been delayed in Las Vegas NV much longer than expected. However, things are turning around and as Vince gets back in early May, he will be hiring for one job position. Liz Martinez, the new business marketing rep, is on hold waiting for Vince to return.

Currently, Liz is continuing work on the budget for the county.

Solano Manufacturing Building Transfer - *No action reported at this time.*

Barbara Shaw is working with Eric Griego and this should be finalized by end of June.

Solano Manufacturing Equipment Lease Agreement - *No action reported at this time.*

Amigos Bravos HTC Committee – Tuda Crews Absent

President Bachen reported the last weekend in June is scheduled for the upcoming Historic Church Tour in Harding County by the regional HTC of the Ogallala Commons Group. Planning is underway for lodging, tour activity, and entertainment, i.e. the Solano StarLite Ballroom bringing back Bob Wills swing music to Harding County as is done in Lipscomb, TX. Kim Mitchell suggested contacting local ranchers to pay to put their brands on a backdrop for the event. HTC is also sponsoring an upcoming Essay Contest - ***Why do I Like My Community Essay Contest***, a multi-level competition for adults, teens, and grade schoolers with monetary prizes.

MAIN STREET PROGRAM REPORT –

HCcecdc MainStreet Oversight Committee – Mario Gonzales

VP Gonzales reviewed the advertising recruitment for the Harding County MainStreet Position, advising it was widely posted locally and extended from April 15 to April 24. There was only one applicant, Sharon Callahan, and she receives the endorsement of the subcommittee (*Gonzales, Clavel and Shaw*). **Motion was made by Jeffery to accept the hiring endorsement for the Harding County MainStreet Position. Seconded by Casados and passed unanimously.** President Bachen offered his congratulations to Callahan.

MAINSTREET PROJECT COMMITTEE – Sharon Callahan

Callahan advised the members listed by Bary Floersheim as the core Harding County MainStreet group, were contacted by email, to seek their participation. **HCcecdc** members were also copied by email. So far, Arlen Aragon, Chris Britt, and Jake Green have consented to participate. President Bachen advises **HCcecdc** needs to obtain records/materials follow up from Floersheim regarding brochures, posters, facade-planning projects, Fandango planning and attendance, the High Prairie Library, grant work with Home Depot and Richard Marchese.

Annual Fandango –

HC Community Center is reserved for July 7 & 8 and Lee Daniels booked for BBQ catering. Entertainment is being prospected. However due to numerous arrangements that must transpire to make this event a successful fundraiser, Callahan recommends another

date be targeted so the MainStreet Project Committee and a Fandango Sub-Committee can be setup to work out all the plans and details for sponsorship underwriting, advertising, the entertainment, etc.

Mesa Theater Planning –

Elmo Baca, MainStreet Consultant and Yolanda Archuleta, Focus Group Facilitator, conducted a Community Forum last night (April 23) at the Roy School Cafeteria to discuss a public vision for the theater renovation. There were thirty people in attendance. General sentiment was mixed. Many expressed concern this project was a “pork/frill” activity and there are many more urgent economic needs. Many others supported the project saying this could be a real key cornerstone activity to revitalize a prominent Roy mainstreet area, offering the entire county community resources to unit around preservation efforts. The summaries of actions from the public meeting are:

- **MainStreet Theater Task Force Committee Volunteers**
Bary Floersheim, Tony Gonzales, Champ Kidd, Carla Esquibel, Tuda Crews (HTC Liaison), Karen Mitchell
- **Step 1** – Elmo Baca recommends Task Force focus on “Marketing & Communicating with local community for theater consensus support.
- **Step 2** - Harding County is a Satellite MainStreet Program up for renewal in June...need to get Homan’s & NM leaders to advocate for continuing \$’s support.
- **Step 3** – Elmo Baca recommends we concentrate on working with Regional Rural Economic Issues in Northeast NM...work with Raton, Las Vegas, Tucumcari, Santa Rosa, Clayton, etc.

2007 MainStreet Grantwriting Workshop Approval

Callahan requested approval to attend the pre-paid grantwriting MainStreet registration workshop to be conducted by Richard Marchese in Las Vegas, NM, April 25-27. **Motion to approve was made by Jeffrey, seconded by Gonzales and passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

HCecdc Letter Draft to Governor Richardson - Callahan

Callahan fulfilled her promise by submitting a short, sweet draft letter for review, next step editing, and finalization by the **HCecdc** Board at large.

At-Will Employment Contract (*Template submitted for the Record by e-mail*)

No action reported as this time.

Mesa Theatre Property Donation Acceptance

Callahan reported visiting with Anne Dikeman prior to this meeting to discuss the necessity of re-doing the Quitclaim Deed. The theater donation must be made solely to the **HCecdc** with no strings attached due to the \$300,000 legislative grant. Anne understands, is agreeable and will have her daughter Clara redo the deed. Anne also has lent us the legal abstract so we can make a copy for our records.

NEW BUSINES

Board Member Resignation

President Bachen presented a letter of Board resignation from Secretary Callahan, dated April 24 to **HCecdc** in order to prevent any conflict of interest. **Motion was made by Garrison to accept Callahan's resignation, Seconded by Gonzales and passed unanimously.**

New Board Member Interest & Acceptance

President Bachen presented a letter of interest and intent from Paul Cooper to serve on the **HCecdc** Board. **Motion to accept was made by Casados, Seconded by Jeffrey and passed unanimously.**

Election of Board Secretary

Discussed ensued about the vacancy for **HCecdc** Secretary. Jeffery volunteered to serve as interim secretary and Gonzales volunteered to alternate with her. President Bachen thanked both members for stepping up to serve.

Monthly Dance Idea

President Bachen reported he had been talking with Remelle about a monthly dance idea...bringing Bob Wills Western Swing Dancing back to Harding County. Bachen advised he had contact with a 7piece Texas swing band willing to contract for monthly dances the 4th Saturday of the month throughout the summer. He also has lined up catering to do sales by the plate. The events will be advertised as family entertainment. Food would be available at 6:30 and dancing from 8-11pm. There could also be a crafts fair for local artisans. @\$10 per person, need attendance of 250 people to pay the band. The kick-off event would be the weekend HTC Tour the end of June. Bachen advised he needs **HCecdc's** help to underwrite the cost of the band and portable potty rental. Cooper inquired about the investment downside...re total potential loss and weather cancellation policy. Casados said security would come from the county. After further discussion, **Motion was made by Gonzales to try it out for the 1st month (HTC June Event) and then review the event. Seconded by Garrison and passed unanimously.** Bachen thanked the Board for their support and advised...**everyone pays!**

USDA Rural Economic Development Funding Resources

Callahan distributed the latest USDA Funding Resources Guidelines acquired at the recent workshop in Clovis. She noted there are funding opportunities for Solano Manufacturing and La Sombra Farms. She also reported Andes Aragon is back at work in Las Vegas and is available to help.

Harding County Economic Profile Template - *Tabled until next meeting.*

NM Rural Economic Development Forum, April 10,11,12, Clovis

Callahan reported this was a terrific conference and distributed a written report on sessions attended that were all centered on the economic theme of ***"Putting Your Community in the Game"***! New Mexico's rural renewable energy potential was the hot topic throughout the conference.

Approval of Invoices

Callahan submitted an invoice for MainStreet activity reimbursements as follows.

NM Historic Preservation Conference	
March 28-31, 2007, Roswell	\$267.95
NM Rural Forum & USDA Renewable Energy	
April 10-12, 2007, Clovis	\$211.67
Mesa Theater Planning Session Supplies	
April 23, 2007, Roy School Cafeteria	\$114.85
MainStreet Time Record	
4-5 thru 4-25, 2007	
21 hrs @\$10	\$210.00
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Total	\$804.47

Motion for invoice approval was made by Gonzales, Seconded by Garrison and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT – None

OTHER

Casados reported that small counties are in big trouble for increased matching funds for every road project – match is now 35%. He advised the NM Spaceport changed it all; and intention was to starve out small counties for the Spaceport on the Rio Grande. Good news ...appears there is a \$50,000 legislative capital outlay for Solano Manufacturing. However both county and villages hit hard this year with regard to legislative funding.

NEXT MEETING

May 29, 2007 at 6:30pm – HCecdc Office in Roy.

ADJOURNMENT

9:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted by
Sharon Callahan, HCecdc Secretary