



**Economic Development Commission-
Cass County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**

Officers: Kevin Anderson, Chair - Leslie McClelland, Vice Chair -, Lauren Thurston, Secretary - Rick Russwurm, Treasurer,
Members-at-Large: Edwin Johnson III - David Kring - Jeff Nelson - Hope Anderson - Samuel Barrera

**Cass County Building
120 N. Broadway
Kincheloe Room
MEETING AGENDA
April 26, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.**

- I. Call to Order – *Chair Kevin Anderson***
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Introductions**
- V. Public Comments**
- VI. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. January 25, 2023 meeting
- VII. Financial Report – *Treasurer Rick Russwurm***
- VIII. New Business**
 - a. Julie Wall, Market VanBuren
 - b. Discuss the status of Cass County funding.
 - c. Discuss potential board recruitment ideas.
- XI. Adjournment**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING MINUTES
KINCHELOE ROOM, CASS COUNTY BUILDING**

Date January 26, 2022

Time: 8:30 am

Board Members present: Kevin Anderson, Rick Russwurm, Leslie McClelland, Lauren Thurston, Samuel Barrera, Hope Anderson, Jeff Nelson and David Kring.

Chair Leslie McClelland called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Also present: Alexis O'Flynn Community and Economic Development representative from the Village of Cassopolis.

Approval of the agenda:

Approval of minutes: Motion made to approve the October 26, 2022 meeting minutes, motion carried.

Financial Report: Motion made to approve the financial report, motion carried. As of 11/30/2022 we have a little over \$1,000 in our account.

Business:

1. Update on Market Van Buren: a rebranding will be done once the contract is renewed 9/30/2023. We might want to begin sketching out ideas for this prior to the 9/30 date and get the help of the county's new marketing person Ambrosia Neldon in this process. Jodi Nilson, who was introduced at our 10/26/2022 meeting, has moved out of the Economic Development Manager position into another department of Market Van Buren (MVB). Kevin Anderson stated that we need more stability from MVB. It's clear that we need MVB, we just need more of their time focused on Cass County. Having said that we also have to admit that some of their activities go unnoticed as they aren't reporting everything they do for us, for example we've gotten great support from Sarah Snoeyink on grants and various applications that Hope Anderson has submitted. Zach hasn't ignored Cass County, but we clearly need a better reporting system for his activities here. We know economic development is a long term play, we just need better reporting. We also need to introduce MVB to the board of commissioners and this will begin at the 2/17/2023 workshop for the Board of Commissioners where Zach Morris has a 30 minute time slot. Kevin Anderson suggested a bus trip for all the commissioners to travel the county and view our progress as well as opportunities. Hope Anderson encouraged us to take advantage of the skills of our new marketing person to highlight progress made. Lauren Thurston echoed the idea that we need to always be able to show examples of what MVB has done for the county. She also suggested that we agree on the goals of our Economic Development and Brownfield efforts so that we can then share them with the Board of Commissioners for their knowledge and approval.
2. Update on Land Bank and Brownfield activities: Hope Anderson reported that the Land Bank Authority has selected 9 properties (with approval of the owners) to be part of their 2023 blight elimination program for which we have a fund of \$200,000. This is a huge step towards removal

of blighted properties in the county! We worked with EGLE to combine our list of blighted properties with our list of 99 contaminated sites with one property emerging on both lists. This becomes a high priority for our Brownfield efforts. We've also begun to create files on other potential Brownfield sites to continue to gather information important to our argument on why they qualify. We need to focus on what is our Brownfield strategy to be able to articulate its benefits for the people of Cass County.

3. Update on consent based siting for spent nuclear fuels: This was a unanimous vote of no we do not support taking part in this program. Kevin Anderson stated that this is not even within our authority/jurisdiction.

Update on new appointment for the Brownfield Authority: A motion was made accepting the replacement of Lauren Thurston with Leslie McClelland.

Election of officers: Kevin Anderson was elected as the Chair, Leslie McClelland was elected as the Vice Chair, Lauren Thurston was elected as the Secretary, and Rick Russwurm was elected as the Treasurer.

Lastly, we agreed that our future meetings will move from quarterly to every two months.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

County of Cass
Fund 244 Economic Development Corp
Financial Report

Cash 10/1/2022	16,858.20
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Revenue:

Funding from General Fund (Year-to-Date Total)		50,000.00
Interest Income (Year-to-Date Total)	YTD	11.80
		50,011.80

Expenditures:

Edwardsburg CofC - Annual Dues	(135.00)
Berrien/Cass/VanBuren Workforce Dev	(55,416.69)
	(55,551.69)

	Beginning Cash	16,858.20
	Revenues	50,011.80
	Expenses	(55,551.69)
Ending Cash	3/31/2023	11,318.31