

**Planning Commission Meeting
April 8th, 2010 7:00 pm**

Attendees: Ray Kiewit, Joni Brooks and Max Taubert, Fred Schlicting
Guest: Marian Vaughn, Bayfield County Economic Development Cooperation
Bill Sloan, Town of Bell Chairman, Mike Coughlin, Citizen

No Members of the general public were present.

Updates

Joni made a motion to approve and Max 2nd the minutes from the meeting of 03-04-2010
All were in favor of approval.

Joni made a motion to approve and Max 2nd the minutes from the 03-10-2010 Joint Town
Board/Plan Commission meeting. All were in favor of approval.

This is the first meeting in the Plan Commission room. Bill Dreager ordered a door knob
with lock for the closet in the room. The closet will be locked and used as a storage area
for the Plan Commission Room. The room will remain open for other uses when not
being used by the Plan Commission. Ray will order corkboard to mount maps on the
walls.

Marian Vaughn, Bayfield County Economic Development Cooperation

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to Marian Vaughn who talked about services
offered by the Bayfield County Economic Development Cooperation.

Although the majority of their funding comes from the County, the Coop. is a private
entity and not a Bayfield County department. This is beneficial because it eliminates
conflicts of interest between the County and private parties that they are working with.

The main purpose of the Coop. is to help new businesses to get established and to assist
existing businesses to expand. It makes sense in this area to look for opportunities for
businesses to expand into the area or within the area.

There is no traditional model for economic development here because we do not have the
amenities that draw businesses with high paying jobs. Some of these amenities include
access to railroads and major airports or access wi fi and cell phone coverage.

Services offered by the Coop. include:

- training services (marketing is a popular training);
- teaching services;
- workshops; and
- Providing funding.

Some of the points discussed regarding the Town of Bell establishing an Economic Development Committee include:

- Marian is excited about what is happening on the South Shore because people are enthusiastic about business opportunities
- We have a lot of potential to expand business opportunities but we need to make sure that the opportunities are appropriate for the area or they more than likely will not be successful;
- Marian's role would be whatever the Town wants her to do, whether its to attend all of their meetings, providing advice, finding resources for the Committee, etc;
- Marian can tap into other resources on her board that could also be of help;
- The Commission needs to define what we want this group to do, i.e. what are we going to do to make the economy grow before we decide who we want on the Economic Development Committee;
- Marian will send us information that should help us set up the committee;
- The Committee needs to identify what's unique about the about the South Shore that we could develop industry around;
- There could be some advantages to working with the other South Shore communities;
- The first year of the Committee's existence, or at least the first 6 months or so, would consist mainly of finding out what we have and what we need to do to develop business opportunities based on what we have;
- During the first stages of the Committee's existence we will need people who will do logistical work, but later we may need to tap people with more specific skills for what we need at that time.

We talked about several different business opportunities such as kayak outfitters and various agricultural oriented businesses.

We will brainstorm about what we need to do to get the economic development committee established and started.

One idea that someone came up with was to get community wi fi established in Cornucopia to help attract business to the area as well as get more tourists and potential customers to business to come to town.

The next meeting will be on Thursday May 6th at 7 pm at the Community Center. In addition to talking about the Economic Development Committee we will try to finish our protocol for special uses and variances and format it for final presentation to the Town Board.