

## **Upper Valley Economic Council**

Meeting Minutes: April 24, 2017

***Next Meeting: Monday May 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm.***

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The meeting was brought to order at 4:05 pm.

**Present:** Alvin Theriault, Lois Eash, Steve Gould, John Owens, Brian McQuarrie, John Qualey and Jeff Packard.

**Guests:** Jill Ducharme - Sustainable Writing & Consulting, Don Flewelling - Director of Public Relations - Pioneer Broadband

**Minutes:** It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of March 28, 2017.

**Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants:** Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for April 24, 2017. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

**Amendments to agenda:** None  
**Chairman's Report**

1. **Broadband/Fiber Optics:** The Board held discussions with Don Flewelling & Jill Ducharme on the possibility of Sherman & Stacyville taking a bond out to expand to all areas where there is no fiber optics. Sherman & Stacyville would own the lines and the bond could be paid off in 5 years. Then the project would bring in revenue to the Towns. Don explained that he and Tim McAfee, the CEO of Pioneer Broadband could come to a meeting with the details of how this project would work and with the financial numbers. There were several questions and answers as well as ideas tossed around during the discussion. The Board agreed to have Office Manger Packard set up a meeting during an evening and invite Businesses, Teachers, Municipal Officials and Citizens to the meeting.

2. **Jill Ducharme Update:** The applications for Sherman & Stacyville to the Gloria MacKenzie Foundation made it to the second round. Jill needs to have from the Stacyville Veteran's Committee what they want to do for a Memorial and get estimates. Jill will send copies of the Proposals by email to Alvin and UVEC.

3. **May Meeting:** The next UVEC Meeting will be held in the evening. Office Manager Packard asked the Board if they wanted to continue to meet at 7 pm for the evening meetings. The Board agreed to continue to meet at 7 pm for the evening meetings.

### **Office Manager's Report:**

**Food Pantry Report for 4-'17:**

57 Households Served, Sherman – 27 Households, Stacyville – 17 Households  
Other Towns - 13 Households. There were a total of 157 people, 47 of these were senior citizens, 44 were children, and 66 adults. We have 19 volunteers with a total of 103.75 hours as of 4-18-'17.

**Barbara Hayslett from Senator King's Office inquired about the Workshop on Businesses benefiting from a National Monument. She plans to attend a future meeting of UVEC.**

**New Business/Other:**

**Business up-date: The Box Factory is in the process of purchasing the Paddle factory in Patten.**

**Scenic Byway: The next meeting will be 4-27 -'17 at the UVEC Office at 1:30 pm.**

**UVEC RBEG Update: Machais Savings Bank Called Office Manager Packard and asked him to write a letter to Jeff Brooks. He is 83 days overdue and owes \$1014.00.**

**Sherman Boralax Plant: No Update**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 5:00 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**John Qualey, Treasurer**

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