

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: March 28, 2017

Next Meeting: Monday April 24, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

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

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

Guests: Jill Ducharme - Sustainable Writing & Consulting

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of February 27, 2017.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for March 28, 2017. The Treasurer's report will now presented in a profit loss report which will show the budget and what is spent to date. When Jill was writing a grant the profit loss report from QuickBooks was off because the old template used for determining the budget did not show all the categories needed. Peter and Jeff went back over the budget and added the needed categories and Jeff plugged them in to the profit loss report. Peter and Jeff also made the following changes: Canceling the Bangor Daily News in May when it runs out, Canceling the membership to Stamps.com, and stop buying candy. Peter and Jeff will go over the changed budget next month with the Board when Peter is able to attend. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Amendments to agenda: None
Chairman's Report

1. **Town Meetings:** Stacyville and Sherman citizens approved the appropriations for UVEC.
2. **Elections:** Alvin made the motion to keep the same Officers: Peter Qualey - Chairman, John Qualey - Treasurer, Alvin Theriault - Secretary. Brian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UVEC Grants/Jill Ducharme: Working on a grant for the Food Pantry to the John T. Gorman. Stacyville has made the second round of the Gloria MacKenzie Foundation Grant. Will be applying for the Betterment in June or July. Steve asked about the fiber optics expansion. He asked if there was anything that can be done to get more funding for this project to go with the \$150,000 UVEC now has. Because there is no grants at this time the only options are taking out a Bond or perusing a loan and this is not viable at this time. There is the possibility that UVEC could be asked to return the funding back to Connect ME in about a month if nothing is done. Because of the need in several rural communities for fiber optics, it would be difficult to seek another company other then Pioneer BroadBand to do the project. Jill can help with research for this project but there needs to be people in Sherman & Stacyville to take the lead for the effort to make this project happen. Steve Gould and John Owens will work together to find private funding.

Office Manager's Report:

Food Pantry Report for 3-'17:

42 Households Served, Sherman – 21 Households, Stacyville – 12 Households Other Towns - 9 Households. There were a total of 105 people, 40 of these were senior citizens, 22 were children, and 43 adults. We have 15 volunteers with a total of 63.5 hours as of 3-16-'17.

Carrie Hamblen of the of the Las Cruces New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce will be visiting the Katahdin Region and speaking on economic development on April 4th from 12:00 - 2:00pm at the Sherman Municipal Building. Lunch will be served.

Working on Business Guide and will be printing it out soon.

New Business/Other:

Business up-date: Ed Wright stopped in and went over the program for solar farm for businesses. The project would have to happen next year because of a grant deadline April 1st. UVEC needs to find 4 to 5 businesses that would be interested in this project. Because of the Maine PUC's new ruling that will phase out net-metering, Office Manager Packard will contact Ed Wright to see if the project can still work.

Scenic Byway: The next meeting will be 3-30-'17 at the Baxter State Park headquarters. Thursday, April 20 from 9 am to 12 pm, Hilary Nangle will be leading a Workshop on behalf of the Katahdin Partnership called: USING MEDIA TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS. The workshop will give information on the following: Raising your business profile and increasing awareness through social media

1. Sharing news—and deciding what news is versus creating interest
2. How to identify travel versus other media opportunities
3. Telling your story and finding the right people to help you get your story out to the public
4. Identifying who you want to reach (print/online; local, regional, national, targeted) and determining who is interested in what
5. Opening the conversation and ways to reach out through social media, press materials (e.g., releases, calendar notices, fact sheets), invitations, hosting
6. Hosting a travel writer and how to make his or her visit productive

UVEC RBEG Update: There is \$24,957.31 available to be loaned out

Sherman Boralax Plant: TT here people hired to do clean up and are now working. Still awaiting on the closing.

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John Qualey, Treasurer
