**Pagosa Springs CDC Regular Meeting**

**September 13, 2017; Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce**

**Board in Attendance:** Jason Cox, Sherry Waner, Jodi Scarpa, Neal Johnson, Nicole DeMarco, Mike Heraty

**Board Absent:** Laura Mijares, Jimmy Munozcano

**Guests & Staff:** Mary Jo Coulehan – PSCOC staff; Marshall Dunham – Pagosa Springs SUN

A quorum was established and Jason Cox called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

The minutes were reviewed from the July 12, 2017 meeting. Mary Jo mentioned that there was one correction to the minutes – there was a duplication of the phrase “Bank of Colorado –Savings/Additional checking” that needs to be removed. With this one change Neal moved to accept the minutes, Sherry seconded. Minutes approved.

Jason reviewed the financials. Membership is still behind. Regional offices are still not joining. Debra at the Chamber has sent the CDC membership information to Black Hills, but no sign up as yet. We should ask PLPOA to join since they are so integral to the community.

Mary Jo gave an update of the Chamber activities for August.

* A major focus for the month was the Economic Forum. In addition she worked on the 2018 budget, and the upcoming broadband meetings.
* The Chamber consulted with 4 clients during August including one local business expansion, job assistance, an two outside companies looking for relocation and development opportunities.
* Mary Jo reviewed the First Net proposal from AT&T that was presented at the fall Club 20 meeting. The state has not opted into the offer yet. Ultimately, the states will have to opt in and buy into the package. There is no assurance that coverage will improve, especially in this area.
* Mary Jo will attend with Michael Whiting and 7 others the Community Builders Housing Work Group in Glenwood Springs at the end of September.
* Mary Jo will add an SBDC update to each CDC meeting.

Rich Lindblad gave an SBDC update:

* There is still no permanent director assigned to this region to replace Liz Ross
* In 2015 Rich saw 55 clients – 17 from Pagosa; in 2016 he saw 75 clients – 26 from Pagosa; and so far this year he has seen 24 clients – 10 from Pagosa.
* Rich has had 4 people in the last 48 hours that were interested in the Leading Edge class. Unfortunately it was too late as the class was canceled. He is offering mini-Leading Edge assistance on a one-on-one basis. Most of the businesses are new enterprises.

Jason and Mary Jo gave a Broadband Update:

* On September 12, Tony Neal Graves with the State Broadband Initiative will be in town to meet with Hinsdale County/Region 10 personnel about broadband expansion in the upper Piedra.
* Jason recapped the meeting with CenturyLink, LPEA, Skywerx, the Town, County and the CDC reps. The meeting was encouraging and it looks like once we identify some community gaps and needs, different entities can address those needs.
* We should look at writing an RFI to hire a project coordinator and describe what the project manager should work on: Should focus on last mile, offer to help get capital, outline project’s vision and goals. Annee Sewell was mentioned as someone who has written some grants and might be helpful. Mary Jo and Jodi will look into possible grant writers.

Jason announced the resignation of Jimmy Munozcano from the board due to his relocation to Arizona. Neal moved to accept Jimmy’s resignation with regret – Mike seconded. Resignation accepted.

Budget Discussion:

* There was a conversation that Michael Whiting may ask the Town and the County to pool some money to use for the community’s three strategic initiatives: Broadband, Early Childhood Education and Housing. Nicole mentioned that we should be prepared t list our goals and objectives for broadband to assist with the decision making process of why the funding is important and give the councils more information to work with. Therefore, it was decided to ask for money for a project coordinator ($50,000) and not to ask for money to further the project itself.
* Mike indicated that with the reduction of the money initially allocated to the Data Analysis Project, that if this is not a initiative as determined at the strategic planning session, then it should be removed from the list of priorities. He impressed on the group that this data was not just tourism data, but data that is important to our businesses and economic growth. This data should deliver a set of analytics describing the profile of what is driving our economy. He is committed to going out and helping to raise private capital, but would like the Town and County to “have skin in the game”. It was decided to add $10,000 ($5,000 from each government entity) back into the budget.
* The group decided to leave the “at risk” loan in the budget although everything is being done to assist the business.
* With no further discussion Neal moved to accept the budget with the changes made, Jodi seconded. All approved.
* Mary Jo will submit the CDC budget request to the Town and County by their due dates.
* Revised budget attached.

With no further business, Nicole moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Mary Jo Coulehan**

Executive Director

Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce