



**MINUTES**  
**Newaygo Economic Development Organization Meeting**  
**May 11, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Armstrong called the Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO) Meeting to order at 3:02 pm at The Stream located at 1 State Rd., Newaygo MI 49337. Kim Goodin acted as recording secretary.

Roll Call: Present: Ron Armstrong, Matthew Boynton, David Casey, Scott Faulkner, Ed Fedell, Jason Harris, Morgan Heinzman, Steven Radtke,  
Absent: Luke Francis, Cory Nelson, George Suchy

Others Present: Jon Schneider, Kelly Rider, Kim Goodin, Chris Ortwein, John Buckley, Julie Burrell, Lindsay Hager, Greg Poches, Theresa Cooper

Motion by Boynton, second by Fedell to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

Motion by Fedell, second by Faulkner to approve the 10/21/2022 NEDO Meeting Minutes. AIF/MC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**BOARD BUSINESS**

Motion by Casey, second by Faulkner to appoint Ron Armstrong as NEDO Chair and Ed Fedell as NEDO Vice-Chair. AIF/MC

Motion by Faulkner, second by Boynton to approve Resolution N23-01 setting meeting dates for 2023. AIF/MC

Mark Blocher, President/CEO Christian Healthcare Centers (CHC), was present and said that CHC in Newaygo had seen their first patient one year ago on this date. He stated that things are going very well at the Newaygo location and that they are at a break-even status on the patient care side and that they continue to grow. Blocher discussed specialty and surgery side of CHC and said they hope to add additional specialty doctors by the end of the year.

Armstrong explained the role of the NEDO Board and said that he hopes to get some State Representatives to attend future meetings. Board and all in attendance discussed the potential economic challenges that could occur in our community depending on the future of Croton and Hardy Consumers Energy hydroelectric dams.

Julie Burrell, Economic Development Director Newaygo County, stated that American Classics had purchased the old Sandmold building on State Rd. to utilize as a material recovery facility. She said that Newaygo County Developer Day would be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and gave updates on the Tourism Council. Burrell said that Pitch North would be held late summer/early fall and that she has been reaching out to the townships in the County.

Kelly Rider, Executive Director of River Country Chamber of Commerce, gave updates on Memorial Day festivities, Newaygo County Kids Day and Gus Macker. She said that they had partnered with Fremont Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Council to promote Newaygo County. Rider gave an update on the Social Zone stating that they will be working with businesses to schedule a variety of events to promote the Social Zone.

Steven Radtke, Executive Director of Heritage Museum of Newaygo County, gave an update on the museum discussing increase in attendance, exhibits, rebranding, and strategic planning.

John Buckley, CEO Gerber Federal Credit Union, discussed interest rates and said that it is hard to know what the future will hold with interest rates. He said that mortgage business is slow at the moment and discussed the high need of skilled trade workers.

Schneider discussed previous and current year taxable values of municipalities in the County. He said that the City of Newaygo had added approximately 200 dwellings and increased in population by approximately 500 people in the past few years. Schneider gave updates on the TIFA Facade Grant Program, Powerhouse building, Public Safety Study and Redevelopment Ready Communities Program completion. He discussed a potential service road that would be behind the businesses that are on the West side of Mason Drive between East St. and Cooperative Drive.

Cooper gave an update on Sui Generis Home Furniture expansion project.  
Faulkner stated that the River Stop Cafe had recently received a Match on Main Street Grant and this would be utilized to restore their basement to use for overflow space or event space.  
Board members discussed Splash Parks.

Motion by Heinzman, second by Radtke to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 pm. AIF/MC

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Kim Goodin, Recording Secretary