Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – 11/17/23

Location: Zoom Meeting Online
Directors Attending in Person: None
Directors Attending Remotely: Jeremy Elliott, Greg Tatro, Geoff Lindemer, Mark Vandenberg, Tina Norton, Erik Remmers
Directors Excused: Dody Day, Conrad Harris
Also Attending: LEDC Executive Director Pat Ripley

ED Pat Ripley called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. Friday November 17th. The board began the meeting by reviewing minutes from the October 20th meeting. No changes or additions were suggested. Mark Vandenberg motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Geoff Lindemer seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The group then turned its attention to the monthly financial reports. There were no major developments regarding the financial statements. LEDC ED Pat Ripley outlined some recent movements of funds from one account to another due to higher interest rates being offered in the newly created account. This left some questions about continuing with all the existing accounts, but the board decided it would be best to continue to keep all accounts open even if one has little funds in it. The board had some questions about bylaws and how they pertain to movement of funds. LEDC ED Pat Ripley explained that the bylaws only come into effect when $5,000 or more is spent but that fund transfers from one account to another do not require board approval. Treasurer Tina Norton motioned to approve the financial reports and Mark Vandenberg seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LEDC ED Pat Ripley then updated the group on the recent Legislative Preview event held at Green Mountain Technical Career Center and outlined several important business issues expected to come up in the 2024 session. The board discussed various issues important to business. LEDC and the board agreed to continue to speak with local legislators and community members about these important business issues in hopes of making some movement legislatively that is more positive to business and development particularly in the way of housing.

LEDC ED Pat Ripley also explained to the board that recently appointed member Michelle Whitmore had handed in her resignation. Her position as Dean of Students at Vermont University's Johnson Campus has been eliminated due to the current downsizing of the state college system. He explained that LEDC has had a representative from the college on the board for many years and would like to continue that effort. Some efforts have been made to reach out to the college but they have not been successful. Director Geoff Lindemer said he may have some contacts there and will reach out for a possible replacement. The board also discussed a couple other potential candidates for the board. The board also received a request to join the board from Cambridge Town Administrator Jonathan DeLaBruere. After some discussion Mark Vandenberg motioned to add Jonathan to the board and Erik Remmers seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.