

**Minutes of Economic Development Committee Meeting  
Held on March 05, 2024**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Call to order at 5:32 PM

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Chair Bob Dalrymple, Brian Ashton, John DeRuyter, Jillian Privett

**ABSENT:** Caitlin Cardinell

**STAFF:** Kate Thomas, Matt Henson

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** NONE.

**4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** NONE.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Approval of the Economic Development Board meeting minutes from December 20, 2023.

***M/S: JP/JD move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the Economic Development Board from December 20th, 2023.***

***Approved by unanimous vote.***

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:** NONE.

**7. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:** NONE.

**8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Dalrymple: Stated that the conversation has continued with Cabin EA. The draft decision had 5 cabins, and the final decision only had 3 cabins. He stated he has not had a discussion with USFS yet as to why. Funding will come soon, other communities have started progress on their cabins. Tongass Forest Plan is forthcoming. The last plan revision was in 1997. This will have an impact on the Borough. Would like to see Borough as a cooperative agency. Ashton stated that the FS has also added restoration of the Bradfield Canal as a part of the plan.

**9. DIRECTOR REPORT**

- a. Economic Development Department Report for January and February 2024

Director Thomas and Matt Henson provided an oral report.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** NONE.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review and approval of a recommendation to the Borough Assembly to sell the former Wrangell Medical Center (old hospital)

***M/S: JP/BA move to recommend approval to the Borough Assembly of the purchase and sale agreement to sell the Wrangell Medical Center (old hospital) for \$200,000.***

Thomas provided an administrative report. Dalrymple stated that previous estimates of the construction costs to demolish the building have totaled over one million dollars therefore, this deal is to the Borough's benefit. Thomas stated that the sale agreement terms have been signed

but the agreement cannot be executed until the Borough Assembly approves the agreement. Ashton stated that his concerns lie with the possibility of Mr. Johnson abandoning the property and the borough taking the property back through unpaid taxes.

Dalrymple stated that there is a limited perspective on this project and stated that he is slightly skeptical of the project as a whole due to this being the only proposal. Dalrymple stated that it may be a matter of time before something catastrophic happens to the property. He also stated that he likes that the property will generate property taxes. Thomas stated that the greatest value to the property should the borough retain ownership, is to have the property be demolished. Dalrymple stated that the biggest value to him is the focus on housing, whether it be affordable or not.

***Approved by polled vote.***

## **12. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

Dalrymple suggested having USFS Ranger Tory Houser come and speak with the board about an update on the Tongass Forest Plan. Thomas stated that Entitlement Lands will be on the agenda for the next meeting. There will need to be a review of the land patents and confirm land use preferences with Planning and Zoning Commission. Thomas also stated that the Thriving Communities Grant team will be in-town mid-June. Mayor Gilbert suggested that there could be joint work session with the Economic Development Board and Assembly around the topic of Entitlement Lands.

## **13. ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 6:40 PM

The next scheduled meeting is June 4th, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

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Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary