

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

March 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by Chairman Murray at 5:04 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025, and was held in-person at the Staples City Hall council chamber. Present were Commissioners Bjerga, Case, Gerard, Gertken, Tappe and Murray. With Bendson marked as absent. Also present were Mark Anderson of the Staples World, SEDA Executive Director Lucas Wakefield, and the Staples City Administrator, Jerel Nelsen.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and Gerard moved to approve the agenda as written. Tappe seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Minutes of the February 25th, 2025, meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Case and seconded by Gerard to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

SEDA received updates on new businesses seeking to enter the community, local business ownership transfers, and business retention efforts. Updates were given on the progress of the meat processing facility as well as on finding a developer to purchase the townhome lots in the Valley View Subdivision. Tappe updated the board with plans the high school is considering adding training relating to the new industry.

Wakefield updated the board on the status of the Small Cities grant being deployed in the City of Staples as well as on the Blandin Foundation Leadership Boost Grant. Finally, Wakefield also announced that the Staples Community Center had been awarded a \$234,000 MN Dept of Ed grant for facility improvements.

A motion was made by Tappe seconded by Case to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m. Vote in favor was unanimous. Carried.

Lucas Wakefield, Secretary