

Loring Development Authority of Maine

Board Meeting Minutes

LDA February 2025

Thursday February 20th, 2025 9:30 AM

119 Weinman Rd

Loring Commerce Centre, Limestone, Maine

1.) Call to Order

Lee Umphrey called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2.) Identification of board members and others

LDA board members participating in an online conference are: Lee Umphrey, Jeffrey Pangburn, , Tim Crowley, Jim Gardner, Joseph Sleeper,

LDA board members absent: Carolyn Dorsey, Grace Oneil, Denise Garland, and Lynn Bromley.

LDA staff participating by online conference: Micheal Beaulieu and Jonathan Judkins.

Others participating in an online conference: Alan Mulherin, Barb Hayslett (Rep. Golden), Jordyn Madore (Sen. King), Trisha House (Sen. Collins) Kameron Waff (JobCorps), MRWA, Mark Appleton (British Cycle), Roger Felix, Ryan Gahagan (DFAS), Thomas Manning (G4M), Tim McCabe (Bunker Inn), Trisha House (Sen. Collins), Chris Cossette (MRWA), and Kiersten Herbert (MRWA), Gail Isabel, Rachel Perreault, Brittini (JAKS), Chuck Kelley, Steve Levesque, Tomas Manning (G4M).

3.) Public Comment:

Jim Gardner highlighted the need for a more organized public comment format, while Tim Crowley proposed a self-evaluation form for board members. Jonathan LDA reported attendance challenges, with some members, including Carolyn Dorsey and Denise, unable to attend. Kameron Waff brings up massive problems with communication. Leighton raised concerns about payment issues related to the treatment plant, prompting a discussion on financial constraints.

4.) Approval of Minutes and Committee Updates

Jim Gardner raised concerns about the lack of a quorum due to four absent members, emphasizing the importance of having a full board for effective decision-making. Lee Umphrey acknowledged the issue and agreed to check on the status of the missing members. Jonathan LDA provided an update on the ongoing audit, noting that while significant progress has been made, areas still need improvement.

* Updates on the audit process and areas for improvement. Jim Gardener mad motion and Tim Crowley seconded

5.) President's Report by Jonathan Judkins

In his 13th president's report, Jonathan Judkins shared insights on the challenges faced by the Loring Development Authority and the importance of teamwork. He noted the positive reception of a quasi-governmental report by state leaders and discussed plans for future projects, including educational initiatives and infrastructure improvements. Judkins expressed gratitude for the support of the Board of Trustees and community members.

6.) Updates on FAA, PUC Hearings, and Housing Financials

Jonathan updated the group on the FAA and airport plan, mentioning that Steve was not present for further details. He confirmed that the PUC's ruling on new rates remains in effect and that a hearing is set for March 7th, where he and Kirsten will testify. Kirsten added that the upcoming hearing will involve a more formalized process with multiple witnesses.

* Financial challenges related to property management and heating efficiency.

7.) Education Collaboration and Upcoming Events Planning

Jonathan outlined plans for an education collaboration event linked to the Maine International Trade Center bus tour, focusing on STEM education for younger students. Lee Umphrey emphasized the importance of engaging local organizations, including Job Corps and the workforce development system, in the planning process. The board also discussed moving the April meeting to facilitate in-person attendance and interaction with community members and legislators.

* Coordination of the upcoming Maine International Trade Center event.

8.) Business Development Position Update

Jonathan LDA provided an update on a newly funded business development position at Loring, which will involve training with Steve Levesque. This role aims to enhance outreach efforts and relationships with tenants and government partners, with funding secured for 18 months. The hiring process is currently on hold pending government grant reviews, but there has been significant interest from candidates.

* Hiring process for the new business development specialist position.

9.) Community Involvement and Executive Session Discussion

Tim Crowley inquired about community involvement in LDA tasks, which Jonathan confirmed has mostly been in-house. Jonathan also shared that the quasi-annual report received positive feedback and is expected to lead to new legislation requests. The conversation shifted to addressing inappropriate comments made during the meeting, with Jim Gardner emphasizing the need for decorum. The section ended with a motion to enter executive session.

10.) Executive Session: Confidential discussions concerning personnel, economic development, and real estate matters pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 Subparagraphs 6.A. and 6. C Jim Gardner made the motion, and Tim Crowley seconded

12.) Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted