

**Sleepy Eye EDA Special Meeting Minutes**  
September 9, 2021 @ Noon, City Council Chambers

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Sleepy Eye Economic Development Authority is to maintain and improve the community through the retention and growth of business, industry, and services.

**Board Members Present:** Kathy Haala, Mark Kober, Gary Windschitl, Mike Carr, Toby Arneson, Joann Schmidt, Casey Coulson

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Kurk Kramer, Christina Andres, Bob Elston, Wayne Pelzel

**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm on September 9, 2021.

- 1. Finalize and Approve draft of Business Start-Up Assistance Application:** Kurk presented the additions to what is basically our current rehab program, so instead of having two separate programs, it is now one: Sleepy Eye EDA Business Assistance Program. The Board looked over the additions, requirements and changes and agreed to accept this newly formatted program for the future startup inquiries.

**M/S/C Mike, Mark**

- 2. Discuss Railway/Johnny Young/Craig Mork (Duffys):** Discussion was had about the role of the EDA in the facilitation of the proposal/request made by Johnny V. The EDA Board agrees that we cannot give away a building and that finding a better fit (preferably on Main St) for Johnny might be a better venture. In turn, that now leaves the Railway option open for Craig Mork of Duffy's; which the Board feels would be a better fit for that establishment. The Board wholeheartedly agrees that Sleepy Eye can sustain both eateries. Kurk mentioned that he had had conversation with Dave H. about his property on the Snow Addition, as well as, being a possible investor. While a new build would be incredibly expensive, he was willing to consider things. Upon further discussion the former China 14 building, which the Board felt would be a better fit for Johnny V, was brought back into conversation and whether the EDA look at acquiring that space as it had done with 108 Main St W. The question of whether our focus of progress has shifted from waiting for other sellers to bring in business, to us now becoming the sellers and making our downtown what we have always aspired it to be. Kurk will contact Craig M. about touring the Railway and Toby A. will also reach out to him. Kurk will also setup a time to allow the EDA to walk through the China 14 building.
- 3. Newspaper Ad for 108 Main St W:** Kurk presented the ad for the newly acquired 108 Main Street property that he would be submitting to the Herald. After some discussion the Board approved the ad with some questioning if we need to state a Closing Date. Bob E. said he would run the ad by the city attorney just as a double check and Kurk could proceed from there.

- 4. Mayor's Business Luncheon:** Friday, October 1st @ Noon (Event Center)

**Adjourned:** at 1:20pm

Next EDA Board Meeting meeting will be **Tuesday, September 28, 2021** @ Noon (Council Chambers)