



MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – 4:00pm

Grand Marais City Hall – Council Chambers

15 North Broadway Ave, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Members of the Board may participate in this meeting via

Commissioners Present: Peter Clissold, Ben Peters (City Council alternate), Mark Shackleton, Dave Mills, Alex Beebe-Giudice, Siri Anderson via Zoom connection.

Commissioners Absent: Tracy Benson, There is one Commissioner vacancy

Others Present: Mark Peters, minute taker Maggie Barnard

1. Call to Order

President Clissold called the March 16, 2026 regular meeting of the EDA to order at 4:01 p.m. He noted that Peters is present as the alternate for Benson.

2. Approval of Agenda

Clissold asked if there are any additions or revisions to the agenda, none made.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented (Mills/Shackleton) Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

3. Public Comments

Clissold opened the public comment period noting this is separate from the public hearing period. No comments. Public comment period closed.

4. Public Hearing

- a. **2026-08 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSETS OF SUPERIOR NATIONAL AT LUTSEN GOLF COURSE** ([Pages 34-98](#))

President Clissold opened the public hearing and invited members of the public to address the EDA Board of Commissioners.

Julie Rau spoke in favor of sale with concerns about finances.

Kjersti Vick, representing Visit Cook County and the Cook County Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of golf remaining viable in the County as a business driver and tourism attraction.

Clissold read email submissions: Craig Hunter in support of sale. Jane Alexander in support of sale. Howard Hedstrom in support of sale.

No further comments from public members.

President Clissold closed the public hearing.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. February 17, 2026 EDA Regular Meeting ([Pages 1-3](#))
- b. February 23, 2026 EDA Special Meeting ([Page 4](#))
- c. March 3, 2026 EDA Special Meeting ([Page 5](#))



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Motion to approve the February 17, 2026 EDA Regular Meeting Minutes, the February 23, 2026 EDA Special Meeting Minutes and the March 3, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes (Mills/Beebe-Giuduce)

Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

6. Review of Financials

- a. Balance Sheet EDA, as of February 28, 2026 ([Pages 6-9](#))

Shackleton said reports reflect we are close to budget however what is not reflected is the transfer of funds from the EDA to the Golf Course, this will be done by the end of March. The Golf Course revenue is less than last year, the re-opening of Lutsen Mountain restaurant affected demand and it is the off season. **Members and President accept and forward to audit.**

- b. Bill Approval Status EDA, February 2026 Payments ([Page 10](#))

Motion to approve the February 2026 EDA payments (Mills/Shackleton)

Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

- c. Balance Sheet Superior National Golf Course, as of February 28, 2026 ([Pages 11-15](#))

Members and President accept and forward to audit.

- d. 2025 Business Development Fund Grant Report, information only ([Page 16](#))

7. New Business

- a. **2026-07 RESOLUTION APPROVING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT AWARDS AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF GRANT CONTRACTS** ([Pages 17-33](#))

Clissold stated the first round of applications were due February 4, 2026 and the Grant Review Committee met to review and recommend eight grant recipients. Noted that applicants will have an opportunity to speak if they wish.

Beebe-Giudice spoke about the revisions to the program, especially establishing three application deadlines throughout the year.

The following Commissioner conflict disclosures were made for the public record and Commissioners were requested to leave the room during discussion of that specific application:

Beebe-Giudice recuses from the Sisu & Loyly request.

Clissold recuses from Violence Prevention Center request.

Mills recuses from the Taproot Floral request.

1. Sisu & Loyly – Katie Usem present for questions. Peters questioned whether a variance request to the City will be done. Usem said no, a variance is not required, they will need a Land Use permit from the City of Grand Marais for the expansion and have contacted the City. No issues have been communicated to them regarding the permit.
2. Crosby Bakery LLC – Hana Crosby present for questions.
3. Violence Prevention Center – Sara Mowchan present for questions. Beebe-Giudice noted that this grant will allow them to construct physical space to meet standards for client confidentiality and hire two positions.



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4. Scaredy Cat LLC, Scaredy Cat Music – Benjamin Nichols present for questions.
5. Common Ground Home Services LLC – Braydon Gillespie applicant.
6. Taproot Floral – Alisa Berns present for questions.
7. North Roads Knits LLC – Jamie Rex applicant.
8. Wandering Fern Retreats LLC – Dorothy Broomall applicant.

Clissold noted that there is a quorum present with three members abstaining from vote.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-07 (Anderson/Shackleton)

Roll Call Vote: Shackleton, Anderson, Peters: all ayes. Vote: Passed (3-0-3). Abstaining: Clissold, Mills and Beebe-Giudice.

- b. **2026-08** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSETS OF SUPERIOR NATIONAL AT LUTSEN GOLF COURSE ([Pages 34-98](#))

Clissold noted that in accordance with MN Statute 469.105 a Public Hearing was held earlier on the agenda. Clissold said the septic and irrigation expenses are inclusive of the 150% noted in the project budget. Details of the sale will be presented to the Nelson family, they have up to 90 days to accept or refuse. There is a 60 day closing period following their response.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-08 (Mills/Beebe-Giudice) Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

- c. **2026-09** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COOK COUNTY AND THE COOK COUNTY/GRAND MARAIS JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ([Pages 99-102](#))

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-09 (Shackleton/Beebe-Giudice) Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

- d. **2026-10** RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 OPERATING BUDGET FOR SUPERIOR NATIONAL AT LUTSEN GOLF COURSE ([Pages 103-111](#))

Shackleton said this is in line with Capital Improvement plan of a few years ago.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-10 (Mills/Shackleton) Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

8. Committee/Commissioner Reports

- a. Golf Course Committee – Sale Update
Details covered earlier in agenda and public hearing held.
- b. Taconite Harbor Subcommittee – Strategic Plan Update
The February meeting was cancelled due to weather and is being held this week.
- c. Grant Review Committee Update
Clissold praised the incredible work done by this committee. Discussion: voting with recusals and quorum. The next grant application deadline is May 4, 2026 and will involve the new EDA Director and with support from NSDC. It was noted that the draft agreement, grantees are expected to participate in surveys and should be required to display EDA decal as well.



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d. HR Committee Update

Clissold noted that Lucas, the preferred candidate, has accepted the offer and April 13, 2026 is his start date. Clissold will work with NSDC on his onboarding.

There have been several applicants for the commissioner vacancy and Anderson is working on a couple of candidates as well. Commissioners are looking forward to the SBDC consultant reports and her attendance at future EDA meetings.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:09 p.m. (Mills/Anderson) Roll Call Vote: Mills, Beebe-Giudice, Shackleton, Anderson, Peters, Clissold: all ayes. Vote: Passed (6-0)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Respectfully submitted by minute taker Maggie Barnard.