



**Board of Directors**

- Kevin Malone, President
- Steve Kottich, VP Marketing & Sales
- Beth Sickel, VP Product Development & Public Policy
- Bart Keller, VP Investor & Community Relations
- Brian Daake
- Carole DeBusk
- Dr. Jon Habben
- Chris Halbert
- Dan Hill
- Donna Landis
- Ryan Larsen
- John Martin
- Marc Morehead
- Jerry Oliver
- Jim Sefried
- David Sickel
- Rod Vandenberg

**A Message from the EDGE Director**

There are as many ways to practice Economic Development as there are communities with economic development organizations. Each Economic Development organization that is truly successful has developed an individual style that is as unique as the community it serves. Establishing an economic development style that will serve the community well takes time and a vast amount of people resources. To gain consensus for the direction that is best for the community, a town needs to have a large number of citizens give input on all the issues that concern the community, not just jobs but quality of life issues as well, including recreation amenities, education, healthcare, and infrastructure of the community. Falls City has gone through the lengthy process of doing the community assessments that look carefully at our town.

The results of the assessments are very surprising to some folks, and others already knew what a progressive and forward thinking community we have. The community has undertaken numerous community enrichment projects in the last few years. Some were large, some were small, but collectively they add up to over 31 million dollars in investment in Falls City. Just to simplify that is over \$7,350 for every resident in town. That is an investment in the future that every single resident needs to be proud of. We really don't build water parks or libraries for our own needs but to serve the needs and enrich the lives of future generations. Similarly, we don't undertake any kind of economic development project without looking at what its possibility for the future is. In successful economic development we look at each



step and make an informed, educated estimate about the future and the impact our decisions today will have on the residents of tomorrow. Community consensus and planning such as the process that Falls City EDGE was the ultimate result of becomes the most successful way to begin an Economic Development Corporation. The investment the community has made in EDGE will have positive results for the community, not just today but in the future, just as the numerous investments made in Falls City will have positive impact on the citizenry for years to come.

**Building for the Future**

This is our inaugural edition of the Falls City EDGE Newsletter. As the newsletter comes to fruition, everyone involved in the planning process and implementation process for Falls City EDGE should be commended for their efforts to

create a process for improving the lives of our residents. As we work with our established business and industries and we recruit more to the community, we remember that what we are really doing is building for the future. Each

month through the newsletter we will try to keep you abreast of the projects we have undertaken and the successes we will celebrate.

**Congratulations to the  
Sacred Heart Girls  
Basketball Team on their  
great performance in the  
State Tournament.**

## New Web Site

[WWW.FALLSCITYEDGE.COM](http://WWW.FALLSCITYEDGE.COM)

One of the best research tools site selectors for industry like to use is the internet. Industries that are considering expansion or relocation almost always demand a high level of confidentiality. The internet allows them to do hours of research about a community or region without any one knowing they are "looking" at an area. More and more often the information available in the internet will be the determining factor in an industry deciding to visit a community for further consideration. Knowing the internet is the first glimpse a company may have of Falls City it is vital to have not just a site but a remarkable internet site. We have it. Ours is

comparable to any of the best on the web. If you have not visited yet please do, if at any time you find corrections or have ideas about improvements please let Renee know. Constant updating to keep our site current is vital to our successes.

## Minutes from February 2, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES OF THE FEBURARY 2, 2007  
MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
FALLS CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND GROWTH ENTERPRISE

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise, Inc. a Nebraska nonprofit corporation, was held at the offices of the Corporation located at 3424 North Highway 73 in Falls City, Nebraska, on February 2, 2007, at noon pursuant to timely notice sent to all Directors.

Directors present at the meeting were: Steve Kottich, Kevin Malone, Chris Halbert, Beth Sickel, Dr. Jon Habben, Rod Vandenberg, Bart Keller, David Sickel, John Martin, Jerry Oliver, Donna Landis, Carole DeBusk, Marc Morehead, Dan Hill, Robert Shimonitz. Also present was Renee Bauer, Executive Director of the Corporation.

President Steve Kottich served as Chair of the Meeting and Renee Bauer served as Secretary of the Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were presented; Vandenberg motion, Habben seconded and Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes.

The Treasurers report was presented by Marc Morehead, Malone motioned, Keller seconded and Board unanimously voted to approve the Treasurers report. In discussion, President Kottich indicated to the Board that a company credit card has been applied for to ease bookkeeping and centralize expenditures on behalf of the Corporation.

A Resolution was presented for the Board's consideration and Keller motioned, Malone seconded the motion to accept the Resolution. Board unanimously voted to approve the following Resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED, Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise, Inc. recog-*

*nizes the substantial contribution of expertise and resources that Halbert, Dunn, & Halbert LLC. have graciously given to Falls City EDGE and hereby will be Visionary Contributor to the Corporation in exchange for such services of expertise and resources.*

President Kottich updated the Board on a meeting scheduled with County Officials for February 13, 2007 that he and Kevin Malone will be attending.

Smart Solutions will conduct Board Training on Wednesday February 28 from 4:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Senior Center; all Board Members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Discussion was held about standing Board meeting date, the By-Laws set the Meeting date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every Month at noon, it was agreed that this standing meeting date would

work well for the Board.

Beth Sickel reported that our new web site should be up and running in a few weeks, she has worked with Smart Solutions to create a tremendous web site and it will be a valuable tool for the community.

President Kottich updated the Board on several of the current active projects EDGE is working on.

For the Board Annual Reorganization the following slate of officers was presented:

President: Kevin Malone

Vice President of Marketing & Sales: Steve Kottich

Vice President of Product Development & Public Policy: Beth Sickel

Vice President of Investor & Community Relations: Bart Keller

Secretary/Treasurer: Renee Bauer

Vandenberg motioned the slate of officers be accepted and nominations cease, Martin seconded and the Board voted to unanimously approve the slate of officers for 2007.

A Resolution was presented for the Board's consideration and Morehead motioned, Keller seconded the motion to accept the Resolution, Board unanimously voted to approve the following Resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED, Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise, Inc. hereby authorizes Robert Aitken CPA to sign payroll checks and Renee Bauer, Executive Director in capacity as Secretary/Treasurer and any one other of the four officers of the Corporation be authorized signors on Bank accounts for the purpose of being fiscal agents of the Corporation.*

Discussion and clarification about the bill paying process occurred, it was

clarified that it will take 2 signors on all checks except for payroll, Renee will keep the books and they will be audited by Robert Aitken on a monthly basis.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Renee Bauer, Executive Director  
Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise  
Acting Secretary

## EDGE Investor Member Spotlight



Southeast Nebraska Telephone Company is a high tech, broadband communications company offering cutting-edge communication products in southeast Nebraska. The company provides a variety of services to both residential and business customers including local telephone service, long distance, high speed broadband Internet, dial-up internet, voice mail, web hosting, enhanced calling features and more. In its continuing commitment to providing its customers with growing technology needs, we continue to invest in our local communities as we work hard to provide our customers with the very best and latest products to serve their needs.

**Warmest Welcome  
Extended to  
Addison Grace Keller  
Born on February 19th  
Weighing 7 lbs 3 oz. and  
she was 21 inches  
Congratulations Bart and  
Gayle!**



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