

LOCALNEWS

Wanted: Two board members to advise EDA

A board that advises the International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission will add two members with no restrictions on where they reside or pay taxes.

The International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission Monday agreed on a 3-2 vote to expand the eight-member EDA Advisory Board to 10 and advertise for members without limiting where they reside or pay taxes. Commissioners Bob Anderson and Pete Kalar voted against the motion.

The expansion came to the commission as a recommendation of the board, of which three members were in attendance at Monday's commission meeting.

Advisory Board President Mike Katrin and members Mike Ward and Steve Shermoen told the commission they had not discussed limiting where the members of the board reside or pay taxes, but the three said they saw no reason to restrict membership from outside the city.

"You five will decide who is best to serve," said Shermoen to the commission, which is made up of city councilors. "Why have any restriction?"

The proposal to expand the board to 10 came in an effort to make it more diverse, said Ka-

trin, who joked that adding members comes at no extra cost because the members volunteer their time.

Commissioner Paul Eklund suggested the members not be limited to people who pay taxes — either property or commercial — to the city, as occurred when the advisory board was created. He said the more people who have "skin in the game" the better.

But Commissioner Peter Kalar said anyone can offer ideas regardless of where they pay taxes. He said the Koochiching Economic Development Authority Board, made up of representatives of cities, the county and at-large citizens, was created to offer a wider view. He said he favored adding two members, but limiting the membership to city taxpayers.

Commissioner Cynthia Jaksa said she did not want to "exclude talent" based on those limitations, provided the focus of the board remains development in International Falls. She, and Katrin, wondered whether it would be wise to exclude a successful business owner recognized nationwide, "like a Bill Gates," who may own a residence on Rainy Lake, but understands the idea that what's good for International Falls is good for the larger com-

munity.

EDA President Gail Rognerud, who Monday was reelected to serve as president, said she was conflicted about restricting membership based on where someone pays taxes.

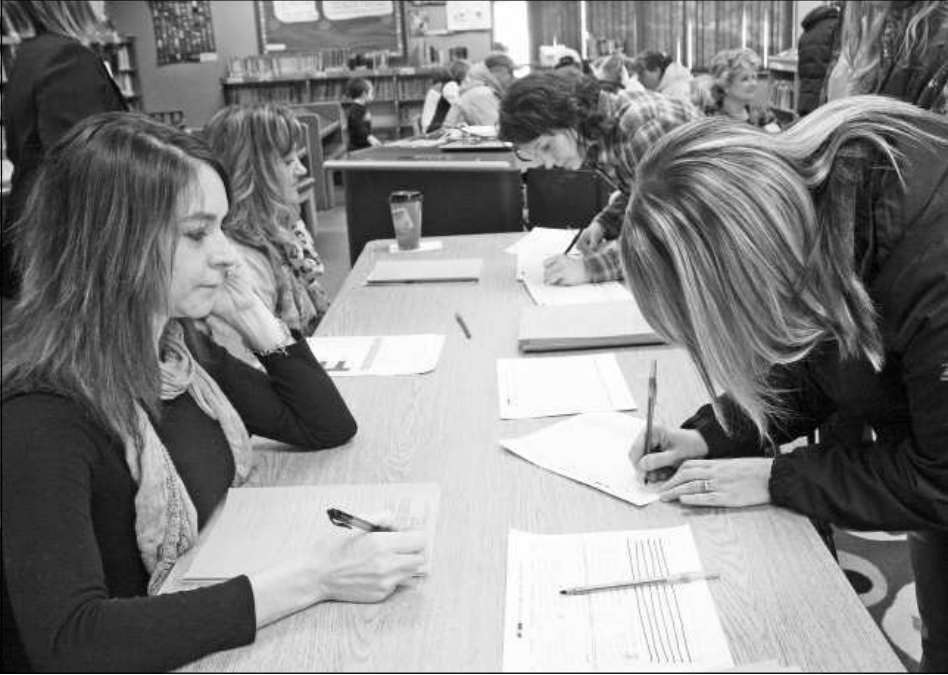
Ward said the board is looking for more help, more diversity and the best people to serve.

The commission also agreed to accept an offer by Bruce Carman to prepare an application for a United States Department of Agriculture grant to study the feasibility of an aquaponics farm. Jaksa told the commission that Carman has offered to prepare the application at no cost because he believes such a farm would be successful in International Falls.

Carman is the president and owner of Cedar Tree Enterprises Inc. which provides "sustainable eco-industrial design and development, and was instrumental in designing an aquaponic farm in Silver Bay, visited recently by several area leaders.

Meanwhile, the commission also elected Kalar as vice president, Jaksa as treasurer/secretary, and appointed Betty Bergstrom, who serves as interim administrator for the city, assistant treasurer. The officer elections were unanimous.

ALL SET FOR PRESCHOOL



Community Education Director Rachel Amdahl, left, assists Jori Dion with preschool registration Monday at Falls Elementary School. Parents and guardians poured into the school's library right around 10 a.m. to begin the process of signing their children up for preschool or kindergarten next year. The Falls School Board last week agreed to add an additional preschool section for both 3- and 4-year-old students as well as offer free tuition.

DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been sentenced for aggravated misdemeanor or felony crimes in Koochiching County District Court. This information is provided to The Journal by court staff.

Travis E. Rosebear, 22, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 10 for felony theft — take/drive motor vehicle without owner consent.

He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on five years supervised probation. He was ordered to pay fine and fees of \$190 and perform 40 hours of community work service. He was ordered to pay restitution and submit to random testing for alcohol or drug use. He was ordered to not enter bars or liquor stores or attend gatherings where liquor is being served or consumed.

Mathew J. Olson, 41, International Falls, was sentenced Feb. 14 for felony first-degree burglary — occupied dwelling, and gross misdemeanor stalking — follow, monitor, pursue another.

On the burglary charge, he was sentenced to 21 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, and \$200 fine and fees. The jail time was stayed for five years and he was ordered to six months local confinement. He was placed on five years supervised probation. He was ordered to follow the recommendation of chemical and psychological evaluation and to supply a DNA sample to the state. He was ordered not to consume alcohol and drugs and may not enter bars or liquor stores or attend social gatherings where alcohol is served or used. He must submit to random testing and searches.

On the stalking charge, he was sentenced to 15 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, which was stayed for five years, and \$200 fine and fees. The sentence is to run concurrent with the burglary sentence.

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Boise Paper employees award safety funds

Boise Paper environmental employees recently presented \$4,000 in safety funds to the Borderland Humane Society (BHS) and Falls Hunger Coalition (FHC).

Boise Paper, A Division of Packaging Corporation of America, donated the funds in recognition of 95 percent employee safety participation. Employees then voted to distribute monies evenly to the BHS and FHC organizations.

"I congratulate the non-profits receiving the funds and the environmental employees for consistently demonstrating their commitment to a safe work place," says Bert Brown, mill manager. "In addition to working over 2,000 days safely, they are set to receive a certificate of commendation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for outstanding wastewater treatment and recently received a favorable ISO 14001 environmental management system audit."

For the past several years, monies have been set aside to assist organizations in Koochiching County based on employee safety participation. Those interested in learning more information about the program are encouraged to call 218.285.5312.



L-R: Riverside production manager Mark Hauke, filter plant operator Gwen Street, environmental engineer Dave Reimer, FHC director Nancy Anderson, environmental manager Jason Lindquist, BHS volunteer Betsy Loop, filter plant operator Nick Ysen, environmental engineer Sarah Anderson, and filter plant operator Charlie Hansen.

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