

**City of Decorah Economic Development and Community Betterment
Committee Meeting
Monday, July 31, 2017 – 5:30pm**

The City of Decorah Economic Development and Community Betterment Community met on Monday, July 31, 2017 at 5:30pm. Chair Dan Bellrichard called the meeting to order and the following answered roll: Kirk Johnson and Gary Rustad. Steve Luse was absent. Others in attendance included City Manager Chad Bird.

Agenda

1. Discussion of proposed urban revitalization (tax abatement) projects (two applications)
 1. Norwegian Mutual Insurance
 2. Decorah Auto Center, Inc.

There was general discussion regarding the two tax abatement applications.

In conversation, the committee chose to offer Norwegian Mutual a three-year tax abatement for their proposed project in the business park. The committee is recommending a three-year sliding scale abatement of taxes at 75%, 60% and 45% respectively.

The committee discussed the application packet from Decorah Auto Center. There were several points discussed including offering a ten-year sliding scale abatement, water and sewer utilities to the property, annexation, an easement for a drive-way and a development agreement.

The committee was pleased to see development at this location but expressed concern over the amount of public investment and the proposed timeline for the improvements.

The committee agreed to development an agreement to include the easement, the ten-year abatement, the utility improvements and then annexation.

The owner, being present, also agreed to include a \$1.5 million minimum valuation base in the development agreement.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad Bird", is written over the "Respectfully submitted," line.