

Lamberton EDA Minutes
January 11, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the Community Center social distancing on January 11, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, M. Bents, R. Arkell, and C. Stavnes were present. B. Bartholomaeus joined after the meeting started with Clayton Hubert as a guest. Others in attendance was: Madonna Peterson the city clerk.

Chair Arkell called the meeting to order. The only change to the agenda was to delete James Rains not in attendance as new business. C. Stavnes moved to approve the agenda with L Sik seconding the motion. Motion carried.

A motion by L. Sik and seconded by C. Stavnes to approve the December 14, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

Madonna discussed the treasurer report. A motion by M. Bents and seconded by C. Stavnes to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried. Madonna discussed the Administration Report. The two delinquent loans were discussed. The Schaffran loan was brought current in Dec. Madonna recapped the meeting with Matthew Leonard, herself and M. Bents had. The board requested Matt to pay \$1,500 by year end and the payment was received the first week in January. It was also discussed with Matt about future payments being auto debited from his account. Matt was ok with that, but at this time it hasn't been signed. M. Bents will get it signed by Matt this week. M. Bents informed the EDA that we didn't perfect the title on the Chevy pickup to get the lien on the title. We do still have the trailer as collateral which currently has enough value to cover the loan in full. C. Stavnes informed the EDA that the motel will be closing this next Friday. The EDA has a loan on the property and the closing attorney is aware of it and the EDA will be paid from the sale proceeds. There is still an EDA board opening to fill. M. Peterson mentioned that it was run in the newspaper and also it was put on the City website. C. Stavnes said that he was in contact with Tim Helmer and that Tim was going to get back to him, but Chad hasn't had a response. R. Arkell said that Sharon Vollmer is interested but not for sure at this time.

In Old Business, Matt Novak is in the process of working on the property taxes on the Lamberton Meats Building. The reimbursement of the property tax has to be approved thru the county and then it could get reimbursed thru the County EDA. Upon transfer of the property the taxes need to be paid and then reimbursement can be applied for. R. Arkell has talked to Sharon Vollmer from Red Rock Bank and her boss Jim has a key as well as Jeremy Waknitz and possibly Jess Bitner. The bank has the display case in the front of the building. Jeremy Waknitz has the cooler to tear down and remove. Arkell was in the building and said that the smell was ok, but didn't open the cooler. There is no timeline for signing the deed to the building over to the EDA at this time.

R. Arkell brought up the US Bank building to talk about the possibility of turning it into an office complex. It might be time to contact the realtor and see where they are at now. C. Stavnes will try and get in contact and report back to the EDA.

Next on the agenda was the Southside Second Addition Protective and Restrictive Covenants. R. Arkell reviewed the packet with the responses. M. Peterson discussed that there are common ground requests in the responses that could be adjusted going forward in the covenants. A concern with property taxes was mentioned in Lamberton compared to other towns in our area. Property taxes in each town are varied by local services offered like swimming pool / police department and depends on each city's financial debt position. Assessments of each towns housing depends on recent sales county wide comparable to similar houses. It was discussed about the EDA listing these properties on a multiple listing service to get more exposure. Discussion resumed on Article one of the covenants and it decided that they were accurate, so no changes were needed. Continuing with Article Two, there was a question on the terminology of residential purposes only. The responses that were received are enforcing no rental properties. M. Peterson will bring that question to Matt Novak about residential purposes only and get his opinion or if he has any suggestions on wording to help with that concern. At that time B. Bartholomaus and guest Clayton Hubert entered the meeting. Shortly after M. Bents dismissed himself due to prior commitments. B. Bartholomaus suggested that there are other spots in the community that could be used for rental. After continued discussion it seems that most of the responses are suggesting more enforcement of covenants compared to adjusting the covenants.

There being no other business, C. Stavnes moved and Bartholomaus seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday February 8, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
February 8, 2021 ● 5:15 p.m.

Meeting Cancelled due to Lack of Quorum

Lamberton EDA Minutes
March 8, 2021 ● 5:15 p.m.

Meeting Cancelled due to Lack of Quorum

Lamberton EDA Minutes
April 12, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the Community Center social distancing on April 12, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, J. Senst, M. Bents, R. Arkell, C. Stavnes and B. Bartholomaus were present. Others in attendance was Madonna Peterson, City Clerk, and Justin Thram, Maintenance Supervisor.

Chair Arkell called the meeting to order. Arkell asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions it was moved by C. Stavnes to approve the agenda with L Sik seconding the motion. Motion carried.

A motion by R. Arkell and seconded by L. Sik to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

Madonna discussed the treasurer report for January, February and March. A motion by L. Sik and seconded by M. Bents to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried. Madonna discussed the Administration Reports. The EDA received full loan payment from EB Gully LLC from the sale of the motel. The two delinquent loans were discussed. The Schaffran loan is one payment behind and Miles Auto has been making monthly payments since he was set-up as an auto payment, but still is behind \$2,049.04 after making an additional \$1,500 payment in January. J. Senst asked about doing an auto payment on the Schaffran loan. M. Peterson said that it wasn't ever asked of him. After some discussion it was decided to send a letter to every loan asking for auto payments. There are no filings currently for the open EDA position. C. Stavnes talked to Tim Helmer about the EDA position, but hasn't had any follow up from Tim on it. M. Peterson is still running the EDA position thru the newspaper and web site. M. Peterson mentioned that there has been some interest from a few new potential businesses looking for current building or lots on main street.

In Old Business. There was a walk thru of the building by a few city employees. There was still some property in the building and it needs to be removed by Friday April 16, 2021. After that time, the building will be secured. Curt Scheffler had an estimate to tear down the building. He has done an inspection and there is no concern on the walls. He stated that the original estimate of \$25K should more than cover the demolition and clean up of the building. Peterson stated that due to the estimate coming in under that the one estimate will be sufficient. Arkell updated the EDA on the possible purchase of the (Drug Store) Guggisberg building next to the Lamberton Meats building. Per some email conversations, they wanted \$7,500 for that building. The EDA countered with taking it off their hands for \$1.00. No counter from them at this time. Peterson will respond to the email on a counteroffer and report at next month EDA meeting. Arkell moved to get a test on the building for lead and/or asbestos and seconded by

Bartholomaus. Motion carried. The southside addition protective and restrictive covenants were next on the agenda. No continued discussion was done.

In New Business. B. Bartholomaus brought up to the EDA Board a possible refinance loan for himself. He would like to payoff a current EDA loan from Wabasso and some personal debt. After some discussion, it was determined that this request didn't meet the revolving loan funding criteria eligibility. B. Bartholomaus was not going to proceed with his request. The 2021 property taxes were reviewed on owned properties of the Lambertton EDA.

There being no other business, C. Stavnes moved and L. Sik seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday May 10, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m. at the Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
May 10, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the Community Center social distancing on May 10, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, J. Senst, M. Bents, R. Arkell, C. Stavnes and B. Bartholomaus were present. Others in attendance: Madonna Peterson, City Clerk.

Chair Arkell called the meeting to order. Arkell asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions it was moved by L. Sik and seconded by J. Senst to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The April 12, 2021 was reviewed. A motion by J. Senst and seconded by B. Bartholomaus to approve the April 12, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

M. Peterson discussed the treasurer report for April. Mile's Auto's ACH payment was received for April. Bill Schaffran hasn't made a payment since his January 2021 payment. A 60-day delinquency notice was sent out. Past and Present Treasures loan was paid in full on 04/15/2021. Nothing other to report on loans. M. Peterson sent out ACH letters to all loan not currently on ACH payments as per last meeting request. A motion made by L. Sik and Seconded by M. Bents to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

M. Peterson discussed the Administration Reports. There are no filings currently for the open EDA position. No updates on previous EDA contacts by EDA members.

Onto Old Business. The deed on the Lamberton Meat's building has been signed as well as the mortgage satisfaction to be filed at the county level. M. Peterson will be going to Redwood Falls to record the deed, mortgage satisfaction and pay the delinquent property taxes. It was discussed that after the filing of the deed that Justin (City Maintenance) will be able to secure the building. Also, the City will be able to apply for reimbursement of the property taxes on the building. There has been a couple interested parties in the Lamberton Meats sign. The sign will be taken down and be deemed surplus property. There is other surplus property that the City currently has, and the sign will be up for bids as the proper process will be followed. A further request for an undated quote for demolition of the building was done. There was no pursuit contacting the Guggisberg's on the drug store property as there was a possible buyer for the property. It was confirmed that the building has an interested party per R. Arkell.

In New Business. The fire department will be doing a controlled burn late summer on the Dan Lingle property that the EDA / City was interested in. There has been a verbal agreement that after the burning is done that the City will get the property for the 2021 property taxes due. L. Sik updated the board that the "Main Street Nutrition" business will be open 2 days a week at the bowling alley prior to them getting into the Lange building on main street in June 2021.

There being no other business, C. Stavnes moved and J. Senst seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday June 14, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m. at the City Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
June 14, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the City Office on June 14, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, J. Senst, M. Bents and C. Stavnes were present. Others in attendance was: Madonna Peterson the city clerk. Molly Peterson was also in attendance by zoom from Agency on Aging. Absent were R. Arkell and B. Bartholomaus.

Vice-chair Stavnes called the meeting to order. Stavnes asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions it was moved by L. Sik and seconded by J. Senst to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Stavnes started the meeting by giving the floor to Molly Peterson from the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA). Molly informed the EDA about the Age-Friendly Community Project. MNRAAA will work with the City of Lamberton / EDA to get a grant in the amount of \$10,000 towards a project that the community would come up with a need for the aging community thru a survey. Molly gave some examples of previous grant receptance. The steps to get this started is to find a fiscal host, identify the community leadership team, get survey out to gather information and ideas for the grant and then decide on the project to accomplish. The survey can be sent out with utilities and or other areas including but not limited to the zip code of Lamberton. There is money that the MNRAAA has that should cover the survey costs. Lamberton does currently have community groups that could serve for the community leadership team. Molly has already talked to some in the community and is going to present to the City Council this evening. Molly completed her discussion of the grant and was dismissed to be rejoining the City Council meeting.

The May 10, 2021 EDA minutes, treasurer report and administration report were all discussed. Automatic payment letters were sent to all EDA loans with no current response. Two parties have pick-up EDA loan application this past month with neither received back yet. Lamberton Meats building quote for demolition was updated. There is no foreseen major issue of asbestos for the building but could be an added expense in addition to the demolition bill. There was a motion by L. Sik and seconded by C. Stavnes to accept the L & S quote of \$20,000 with up to \$10,000 asbestos expense. Motion carried.

New Business: The 405 Third Ave W property was discussed. The owner is asking \$18,000 for the property. Madonna researched the property's purchased price and it was \$7,000 when purchased on 09/28/2020. At this time the EDA decided to table this and spend time with more current issues. Discussion was continued on the Age-Friendly Project presented by Molly Peterson. It was moved by J. Senst and seconded by L. Sik to appoint the EDA as the financial host for the grant. Motion carried.

C. Stavnes asked the EDA members of any other topics to be brought to the board. C. Stavnes mentioned that Drew (Lamberton Motel) had mentioned the possibility of getting a franchise on the Motel. The Motel has gotten a fresh paint job. With no other business it was motioned by J. Senst and seconded by L. Sik to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday July 12, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the City Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
July 12, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the City Office on July 12, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, J. Senst, M. Bents and B. Bartholomaus were present. Others in attendance was: Madonna Peterson the city clerk. Absent were R. Arkel and C. Stavnes.

Sik called the meeting to order. Sik asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions it was moved by Bents and seconded by Senst to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The June 14, 2021 minutes were reviewed. A motion by Senst and seconded by Bartholomaus to approve the June 14, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

M. Pederson discussed the treasurer report for June. A motion made by Bartholomaus and seconded by Bents to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

M. Pederson discussed the Administration Reports. Pederson updated the Board on an email from Kris Ambuehl that the Lamberton's industrial park utilities priority project of \$6.46M has made the first cut for inclusion in a future bill. Matthew Leonard's loan has made all payments since the automatic ACH have been set up. It was moved by Bartholomaus and seconded by Senst to approve the administration report. Motion carried. There have been no new filings for the open EDA position.

Onto Old Business. Pederson informed the Board that there is an interested party by the name of Eric & Sammy Jo Miller that unfortunately had to cancel for tonight's meeting. They have inquired about the Lamberton Meats building and have looked at it separately. With this recent interest Pederson has contacted L&S Construction to put the demolition on hold so that the EDA and City can make a decision to what we want to do with the building. We currently have paid \$3,508.20 in back property taxes to be reimbursed back to the EDA. The county portion is the only portion that could be reimbursed which is a small portion of the taxes. It was decided to get in contact with the Miller's and figure out a time to meet with them about the building. A community leadership team has been formed and have personalized some verbiage on the survey. An ad in the paper will be published in a couple weeks and survey's will be mail out shortly after.

In New Business. Pederson presented the 2022 budget and after some discussion it was reviewed and adjustments will be made as needed after the council meeting.

There being no other business, Bartholomaus moved and Bents seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday Aug 9, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the City Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
August 9, 2021 ● 5:15 p.m.

Meeting Cancelled due to Lack of Quorum

Lamberton EDA Minutes
September 13, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the City Office on September 13, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, J. Senst, M. Bents and R. Arkell were present. Others in attendance was: Penny Mattison and Nick Anderson city employee. Absent were B. Bartholomaus and C. Stavnes.

Arkell called the meeting to order. Arkell asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions it was moved by Sik and seconded by Senst to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The July 12, 2021 minutes were reviewed. A motion by Sik and seconded by Arkell to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

Anderson discussed the treasurer report for July. Heartland Real Estate paid off their loan. A motion made by Sik and seconded by Bents to approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

Anderson discussed the Administration Reports. There has been no contact with Eric and Sammy Jo Miller on the Lamberton Meats building. Rich will contact them and see where they stand and maybe get them to the next EDA meeting.

Onto Old Business. Penny from the Age-Friendly Community Project Update. Penny informed the EDA that the results are back and that there are three options. One is a community card with a list of people to give rides to grocery store, doctor appointments, etc. Second was to update the senior center bathrooms. The committee is requesting permission to get bids to be disabled accessible. The EDA is the physical host and will need to make recommendation to the city council. The third option was getting exercise bikes into the senior center. It was moved by Arkell and seconded by Sik to recommend the city to approve the Age-Friendly committee to get bids for the senior center bathroom. Motion carried. 2022 Budget was discussed, and it was decided that we discussed it last month.

In New Business. Red Rock Chiro has a request to the EDA for a \$50,000 loan for an addition. After some discussion, it was moved by Sik and seconded by Senst to approve the request. Bents abstained from the vote due to be primary lender. Collateral and terms are unknown currently and Mike mentioned that the bank is still getting the final touches on the loan and collateral and will let the EDA know where we end up. The Linge house was burned down and the lot is now owned by the City.

There being no other business, Bents moved and Senst seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Oct 12, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the City Offices due to the Monday holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
October 25, 2021 • 7:00 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the City Office on October 25, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, R. Arkell, C. Stavnes and B. Bartholomaus were present. Others in attendance was: Nick Anderson the city representative. Absent were M. Bents and J. Senst. Minutes were completed by recording.

Arkell called the meeting to order. No additions to the agenda. With no additions it was moved by Stavnes and seconded by Sik to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Arkell introduced Sammy Jo Miller looking at the Lamberton Meat Building. She is wondering what the EDA / City is looking at for a price on the building. She is looking to do ceramics, arts and wood working. Planning on doing most of the work herself and her plan would be to be up and running in 2 years. Sammy will get some information on her proposal for the building for the next EDA meeting on November 8, 2021.

The Sept 13, 2021 minutes were reviewed. A motion by Sik and seconded by Bartholomaus to approve the Sept 13, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

N. Anderson discussed the treasurer report for June. A motion made by Bartholomaus and seconded by Stavnes to approve the treasurers' report. Motion carried.

N. Anderson discussed the Administration Reports. Red Rock Chiropractic term and rates were discussed. Arkell read the email from Bents on what the lead bank is using for collateral and what the borrower is offering as collateral for the EDA loan. There was one new filing for the open EDA position by Penny Mattison. Stavnes motion and seconded by Bartholomaus to recommend Penny Mattison for the open EDA position to the City for approval. Motion carried.

Onto Old Business. Red Rock Chiropractic term was discussed. Anderson will talk to Pankonin on the terms and rate of 10 years and 3.00%. After the talk Anderson will be put discussion on this for the November 8th meeting. Continued discussion on the Lamberton Meats building was done. Arkell brought up that he was stopped by Edie Coulter about any plans for an assisted living facility.

In New Business. Anderson brought up that the Southwest Initiative Foundation is requesting a donation to them. The EDA did \$350 last year and it is in the proposed budget for 2022. It was moved by Sik and seconded by Bartholomaus to approve the \$350. Motion approved. Jon Steen is looking at 5 AC in the industrial Park Site. He wants to develop a trucking storage, repair and dispatch center eventually. Jon currently drives a truck with one additional driver.

Concerns with a turning lane, electrical and lot price were discussed. Information on these items will be researched and brought to the next meeting for discussion.

There being no other business, Bartholomaeus moved and Sik seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday Nov 8, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the City Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Absent Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
November 8, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the City Office on November 8, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, R. Arkell, C. Stavnes, M. Bents, J. Senst and B. Bartholomaus were present. Others in attendance were: city staff Nick Anderson and guests Eric Miller, Penny Mattison and Kris Ambuehl.

Arkell called the meeting to order. Fixing of Tile was added to the agenda. Amended agenda was moved by Sik and seconded by Bents to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The October 25, 2021 minutes were reviewed. A motion by Sik and seconded by Bartholomaus to approve the October 25, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

N. Anderson discussed the treasurer report for October. A motion made by Stavnes and seconded by Senst to approve the treasurers' report. Motion carried.

N. Anderson discussed the Administration Reports. Nothing new to report.

Onto Old Business. Arkell introduced Eric Mill looking at the Lamberton Meat Building. Eric didn't have an proposal to offer the board, but did ask for any local referrals of contractors in Lamberton. The Board will get a list of referrals to Eric and Sammy Miller. Arkell moved onto Red Rock Chiropractic. Kari Pankonin was present to discuss the final terms, rates and collateral on the loan. Nick will work with city attorney Novak on the papers and will try and close on the same day later in the month.

In New Business. Arkell introduced Kris Ambuehl from Bollig Inc. They are going after some funds for the city for infrastructure in the development area. Kris explained some options for the development which included placement of a lift pump system or grinder pump station, placement of the first business, infrastructure thru the railroad tracks or hooking up another way and how to develop in phrases. Discussion continued on the possibilities for the development. B. Bartholomaus updated the board on Jon Steen's trucking business possibility in the development. Jon would like information on what the purchase price per acre would be. Discussion was done on the price with no final decision made.

Arkell updated the Board that there is likely some broken tile and the current renter would like to know whose expense that would be before he starts tillage. It was decided that we will fix the tile. It was moved by Stavnes and seconded by Senst to fix the tile.

There being no other business, Bents moved and Senst seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday December 13, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the City Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary

Lamberton EDA Minutes
December 13, 2021 • 5:15 p.m.

The Lamberton EDA met at the City Office on December 13, 2021 with Board Members L. Sik, R. Arkell, P. Mattison and J. Senst were present. Others in attendance were: city staff Nick Anderson and Valerie Halter. Absent were M. Bents, C. Stavnes and B. Bartholomaus.

Arkell called the meeting to order. Agenda was moved by Senst and seconded by Sik to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The November 8, 2021 minutes were reviewed. Spelling error to correct in Old Business that it was Eric Miller not Eric Mill. A motion by Sik and seconded by Senst to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

N. Anderson discussed the treasurer report for November. A motion made by Sik and seconded by Mattison to approve the treasurers' report. Motion carried.

N. Anderson discussed the Administration Reports. Topics included the Red Rock Chiropractic paperwork, mortgage satisfaction from 2010 and 2022 farm rental agreements and invoices.

Onto Old Business. The Red Rock Chiropractic paperwork in ready. Tentative closing date will be December 28, 2021. Redwood County EDA has closed on their loan and we will have to have them sign a subordination agreement to subordinate the 214 S Main Street property. A mortgage satisfaction will need to be done from the EDA on a previous mortgage. The EDA gave the go ahead on the paperwork and closing. Nick updated the EDA on the Lamberton Meats Building. He received an email from Sammy Jo that said that they are interested in proceeding discussion on the building. They would like acquire the building. Sik mentioned that there is a building in Walnut Grove on bids currently. Sik moved to sell the Millers the building for \$1.00 with the understanding to have a business started within two years and the buyer is responsible for the closing fees. Second by Mattison. Motion carried. No update on the industrial park interest by Jon Steen.

In New Business. Satisfaction of Mortgage for Kyle and Kari Pankonin from the previous August 6, 2010 mortgage. It was moved by Sik and seconded by Senst to satisfy the lien. Motion carried. The approval of the 2022 farm rental agreements for Highwater Ethanol LLC, Jeff Coulter and Ryan Wondercheck were discussed. Arkell updated the board that he talked to Ryan Wondercheck about the tile repairs and crop inputs. It was moved by Senst and seconded by Mattison to approve the rental agreements. Motion carried.

Mattison updated the board on the Age Friendly process. The Senior Center update has been dropped as an option due being over budget. The committee will be continuing with the

postcard printing and adding the replacement of three eight foot benches in the park, adding two gliders and four sixty inch benches. John Rogotzke will be doing the concrete work. Buffalo Concrete is donating the concrete. There were some other donations and grants towards the project to get the total project within budget.

There being no further business, Senst moved and Mattison seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next EDA meeting is scheduled for Monday January 10, 2021 @ 5:15 p.m at the City Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Bents, Secretary