

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting

Monday, June 11th, 2018

6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Large Conference Room)

PRESENT: JoAnn Hooper, Josh Kasowski, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Mary Simonson, Paige Bjornson, Bobby Koeplin, Mike Metcalf, Matt Pedersen, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

ABSENT: Mary Lee Nielson, Dean Kinney, Wade Bruns and Luke Trapp

EX-OFFICIO: Keith Andersen, ICTC; Josh Johnson, VCPS; Jeff Bopp, SVACTC; Paul Diegel, Six D Construction; Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, VCSU; and Dave Carlsrud, City Commission

GUEST: Cindy Schwehr

President JoAnn Hooper called the meeting to order at 6:45 a.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Add Sheyenne Apartments between Items 7 and 8.

MINUTES: Mary Simonson moved to approve the May 14th minutes as presented. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Unrestricted funds of \$313,892 JSRB-A/R of \$8,000 for 2 months of rent for the NW Industrial Park building. Currently need \$7,686 to reach membership goal. Matt Pedersen moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:55 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to go into Executive Session. Josh Kasowski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:20 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to close the Executive Session. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ALBRECHT APARTMENTS: Paige Bjornson moved to recognize a conflict of interest for Josh Kasowski. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mary Simonson moved to approve up to \$5,000 from multi-family housing rehab Flex PACE program. Bobby Koeplin seconded. Motion carried. Josh Kasowski abstained.

A & W PROPERTIES: Paige Bjornson moved to approve up to \$10,000 in Flex PACE funds from the multi-family housing rehab program (request 50% from the Rural Development Finance Corp.). Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SHEYENNE APARTMENTS: George Gaukler purchased the lot behind Sheyenne Apartments and may purchase the apartments and rehab them, which would include future Flex PACE application.

2018-2019 BUDGET REQUEST TO CITY: Mary Simonson moved to approve a request of \$32,000 from City, an increase from \$30,000. George Gaukler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WORKFORCE: John Deere-looking to hire 70-75 employees and Malach-looking to hire 10 employees immediately. Need people with welding and CNC machining experience. Identified potential instructors for classes. Looking at curriculum, costs, and how training is paid. Is there a need in other professions? See overview memo. Met with John Deere and Malach to identify specific curriculum needs; expect classes to be 40-60 hours over 4-6 weeks. Could someone currently on staff train? Need to replace welders at the Sheyenne Valley Area Career & Technology Center. New equipment could be used by students. Could training happen at John Deere and existing equipment used? Need process for long term workforce training needs to train X people per year X times per year. The Career & Technology Center has 12 stations used by 30-35 students per year. Potential to establish adult training program (after 3 pm during school year and all summer). Reach out to students going into welding programs at 2-year colleges. Would companies partner financially? If we purchase equipment, would need Career & Technology Center to participate financially. What are other communities doing? Jamestown does not provide welding at their Technology Center. Fargo has a private business that provides

training. TrainND does not currently have a CNC instructor and Wahpeton does a lot of partnering. Our Career Center is unable to hold adult basic class due to the lack of a trainer, which is the biggest issue. Goal is to approve up to \$50,000 for equipment, trainer, and training costs. Need budget specifics. Whose responsibility is it to train for John Deere? At what level are companies participating? We support this effort because we are concerned about ensuring the workforce can be here. Workforce and training issues at all levels of employment. Training has more long-term impact than paying a “per job created” incentive. Josh Johnson agrees that building the Career & Technology Center and/or training programs, career development opportunities and certifications are important to the workforce solution. The State Board authorized VCSU to offer a Salesforce certificate program. Training helps raise the pay level within the community. Is there anything at the state level that can help? Funding for training programs was cut substantially during the last legislative session (Governor announced ND is losing 14,000 jobs out of state). Programs need to be added back in the next session. Following up with Department of Commerce; will continue to look at additional funding options. What are companies doing to recruit from Wahpeton? How do they compare in terms of pay and benefits? No matter what, we need to increase the number of welders. Forwarded list of University System graduates to Malach and John Deere. Will utilize the amount of \$50,000 for long term financial planning.

PREVENTICE: EKG class was held last week with 12 participants. Lost 1 of original 12 employees. Things are going well; center is operating from 6 am to 6 pm. Very personable employees and helpful to clients. Breakdown of where they are coming from? Provide summary to Board. Update on funds invested.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Ex-Officio created 3 positions, submit names to the Board to fill those positions. July Board Meeting-Rescheduled to Wednesday, July 18th at 6:45 am.

SHEYENNE VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: Andrea Nelson, Director, update of Foundation’s work. Thankful for financial support. Have been growing endowment and other funds, retaining donors, and agency funds. Work with nonprofits helping them become stronger through fundraising, organizational and fund development, marketing, community input, etc. Help donors achieve giving goals (Ex: Litchville Orchard). Work takes a substantial amount of time to assist with the process and develop relationships. Need staff to carry out these processes but struggling to secure funds for operations. Use personal stories to help share what the Foundation does. We provide space, RDS’s time, and \$10,000/year from Roundtable (3-year commitment).

There being no further business, President JoAnn Hooper adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development