

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2018

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

PRESENT: JoAnn Hooper, Josh Kasowski, Paige Bjornson, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Bobby Koepplin, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, Matt Pedersen, Mary Lee Nielson, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

ABSENT: Dean Kinney and Mike Metcalf

EX-OFFICIO: Chad Petersen, KLJ; Jeff Bopp, SVACTC; Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, VCSU; and Mike Bishop, City Commission

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

AGENDA: No changes.

MINUTES: Mary Simonson moved to approve the July 18th and August 13th minutes. Luke Trapp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Received \$100,000 from the City for Preventice; Roundtable-\$20,000 receivable plus \$64,200 in commitments; Tech II-\$4,200 operating expense receivable, September rent due; Flex PACE-includes Rural Development Finance Corp. summary, RDFC is capping their funding at \$30,000 per project, our two-large new multi-family housing projects were approved for \$30,000 each. Bobby Koepplin moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Will schedule a finance meeting to review long-term financial planning, special assessments/property taxes, etc. A special Board will be held in September.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:55 a.m. Matt Pedersen moved to go into Executive Session. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:10 a.m. Mary Lee Nielson moved to close the Executive Session. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WAGON WHEEL: Bobby Koepplin moved to approve up to \$33,333 in Flex PACE funds with 50% requested from the Rural Development Finance Corporation. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SODBUSTERS: Paige Bjornson moved to recognize a conflict of interest for Josh Kasowski. George Gaukler seconded. Motion carried unanimously. George Gaukler moved to approve up to \$10,000 to access Flex PACE with \$5,000 as a grant from County funds and \$5,000 Flex PACE funds from the Development Corporation's fund. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried. Josh Kasowski abstained.

BRIDGES ARTS COUNCIL: Requesting \$10,000 to match \$10,000 approved by the Bridges Arts Council with funds used to hire an individual as a temporary position with specific goals identified to include reorganizing the arts community and establish one umbrella organization that combines the Bridges Arts Council and the Community School for the Arts. Resource Development Specialist and Sheyenne Valley Community Foundation can assist but are not in a position to do the legwork related to the organization and the arts. There are things related to the arts happening in the community. What do the financials of each group look like? Who would be the key person who would drive the process? George Gaukler moved to table the request. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Bobby Koepplin, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen and Josh Kasowski. Naye: Mary Lee Nielson. Arts are nebulous and funds may help them become organized.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT: Need to go through the amendment process to establish voting members for the City. Prior commissions felt that the vote happens at the City commission meeting. There could be situations where City Commissioners support a request at the DC Board level; however, in a commissioner role, it may create a difficult situation/conflict for them. The City Commission unanimously agreed to request two voting positions. This amendment would require a change to the number needed for a quorum. Would two representatives be needed from each, City and County? George Gaukler moved to amend the bylaws to include two City Commissioners as voting members. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Bobby

Koeplin, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen and Josh Kasowski. Naye: Mary Lee Nielson.

NOTE: Bill Carlblom left at 7:25 am.

WORKFORCE: How do we want to run this program? City and County approved \$25,000 each. Sheyenne Valley Area Career & Technology Center (SVACTC) has \$14,000 in place; \$15,000 of our funds will be used for equipment. Should an incentive program be offered or should a fee be charged and then forgiven? Need to offer a stipend to encourage people to participate. If they are not open to employment, then they should pay. Goal would be that they can test at local employers and be certified by them. Pay stipend after trainees have successfully completed training. A number of attendees will drop out during the course. Change requirements from “employment and/or written offer” to “open to employment.” Do we expect them to sign an agreement? Specify being drug free with no specific employment requirement (work for an employer for 6-12 months for example). Pay a \$600 stipend upon completion of class for those available for employment at a drug free workplace. Names will be shared with local employers. George Gaukler moved to approve the Development Corporation providing a \$600 stipend per person payable at the end of the training upon successful completion of the 40-hour course and being available for employment at a drug free workplace. Wade Bruns seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Preventice: \$125,000 of our financial initiative package can be used for recruiting and training. Working with Preventice to do some additional marketing. Discussed what the company needs to do and how we can help. Skills needed include communication, soft skills, business etiquette, and how to conduct yourself in a workplace. Can partner with VCSU and SVACTC to upgrade skills for Preventice along with the general population. Closely related to what to expect when you start a full-time job, Jeff Bopp indicated that Career & Technical Education will be rated and students will be scored on career readiness. Will be documenting and providing reports to parents. Can the Career Center become an accredited welding program? We have been designated as a regional center for workforce training. The automotive program is certified, healthcare (for example, prepare students for the CNA test, hiring entity will often pay for the test) and other programs.

SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL: No updated budget yet-table for now. Discussion should include the long-term sustainability of the organization. What can we do to ensure long term services are available to the region? CDBG loan forgiveness for the I94 Regional Development Corridor is being closed out.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development