

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2019
6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Training Lab)

PRESENT: Josh Kasowski, JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Dean Kinney, John Froelich, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Mary Lee Nielson, Dave Carlsrud, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

ABSENT: Luke Trapp, Mary Simonson, Wade Bruns, Mike Bishop, and Bobby Koeplin

EX-OFFICIO: Chad Petersen, KLJ; Josh Johnson, VCPS; and Jeff Bopp, SVACTC

GUEST: Clark Hagen, McGough Construction

President Josh Kasowski called the meeting to order at 6:45 a.m.

AGENDA: No changes.

MINUTES: Mary Lee Nielson moved to approve the April 8th minutes. Matt Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Reviewed unrestricted and restricted funds, City and County Economic Development Funds of about \$1 Million cash balance (less obligations); Class 500 Roundtable Funds of \$429.29; NW Industrial Park Bldg. \$16,800 with rent received after May 1st. Matt Pedersen moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Dean Kinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:50 a.m. JoAnn Hooper moved to go into Executive Session. George Gaukler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:30 a.m. JoAnn Hooper moved to close the Executive Session. George Gaukler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Joshua Kasowski elected president. President-Elect position is open. Secretary - Treasurer is held by Jennifer Feist. Will address at June Meeting.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CORRECTIONAL CENTER: Toured three jails in the region to determine the wants of future Barnes County facility. All three facilities had similar construction and setup. Police and Sheriff are working on what needs to be included. Learned from others what they would do differently, roadblocks encountered, etc. Facility will have space for education and counseling services, a "courtroom" for hearings via videoconference and a full industrial kitchen. Need to ensure the wish list does not become more extensive than can be afforded. A maintenance person will need to be hired immediately so they know building specifications.

AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST FOUR MILLS FROM BARNES COUNTY: JoAnn Hooper moved to request four mills from Barnes County FOR 2019-2020, which is approximately \$330,000. Funds are crucial to the Development Corporation's workforce development efforts. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MURRAY TRUCKING: Paige Bjornson moved to recognize a conflict of interest for Josh Kasowski. Mary Lee Nielson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Paige Bjornson moved to approve Flex PACE loan of up to \$4,000 for Murray Trucking. George Gaukler seconded. Motion carried. Josh Kasowski abstained.

VC PUBLIC SCHOOL: Requesting \$10,000 per year for two years to provide a matching grant for teachers looking to receive their Master's degree which will allow them to teach dual credit courses. Cost of approximately \$7,200 per person; 50% grant funds and 50% paid by the teacher. Those utilizing this program would be required to sign a teaching contract with VC Public Schools. This program will be similar to how we participated in the nursing program. Helps to build the workforce and educational capacity of our school system. Roundtable funding will likely be available by the time funds are needed. Dual credit teachers require a Master's degree in

Education or the content area. Not enough teachers are obtaining a Masters degree on their own. The goal is for students to have the opportunity to earn up to 24 college credits prior to graduation. Potential to provide dual credit classes to Barnes County North, Litchville-Marion, and other surrounding schools as well. Program would benefit VCSU and students. Teacher Leader Academy provides matching funds up to 50% in grants from the Burgum Foundation. Missing teachers in specific fields that are needed for dual credit. Bill Carlblom questioned if this would open up a can of worms and encourage other school districts to submit similar requests? Currently working with VCSU for online consortium for our region to allow schools to share teachers and provide more options for dual credit courses. Education Foundation does not have the funds available but would like to participate in the future. Could we provide the option of a 0% interest loan to be paid back when pay increase is received? Incentive increases the interest in earning a Master's degree. Who receives the greatest benefit; the individual, students, schools, VCSU, workforce, etc.? This program would fill the gap needed to provide high school students an advantage when it comes to earning college credits. Will this program create animosity between those who are currently working towards their Master's and paying out of pocket versus those who will utilize this program in the future? Other teachers have had this opportunity. Matt Pedersen moved to approve up to \$10,000 per year for two years for VC Public Schools to be utilized for matching funds for Master's Degrees. Funds are to be used as teachers enter the program and restricted to teachers who will be able to teach dual credit courses. Dave Carlsrud seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Wade Bruns, Dean Kinney, John Froelich, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Josh Kasowski, Mary Lee Nielson, Mike Bishop and Dave Carlsrud. Naye: Bill Carlblom.

VC AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Request of \$5,000 for general support. Included in the County funds budget. Working to build membership and reaching out to farmers. JoAnn Hooper moved to approve \$5,000 from County Economic Development Funds. Dean Kinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CAREER AND JOB EXPO: Event will be held at the Hi-Liner Activities Center on Thursday, May 30th. Preventice is not interested in providing a relocation package at this time. The Expo would help with recruiting for them and other employers. Invited career counselors from area schools so that they can network and build relationships with employers. Budget of \$15,000; see sources and uses. Funds needed would come from \$250,000 of workforce development funds approved by the City. George Gaukler moved to allocate \$10,000 of the workforce development funding for this event. JoAnn Hooper seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SOUTH CENTRAL DAKOTA REGIONAL COUNCIL: Jennifer Schulte is serving as the interim director. Membership for Barnes County is \$22,040 for fiscal year 2019-2020; an 11% increase over last year. Funding comes from Barnes County mill levy. The Regional Council has helped many of the small communities in Barnes and other counties. Major investments made for emergency fund needs (CDBG, CDLF, Revolving loan fund for small businesses, SCORE, SBDC Fargo hub, and service in Jamestown). CDBG has a pre-approval deadline of May 22nd. Streeter project is still getting settled. Staff costs are significantly lower and expected to stay that way as long as workload is manageable. County dues have not always been collected in the past, but they expect to receive everything this year. Budget is much more realistic; DC Board feels more confident. Mary Lee Nielson moved to recommend payment of \$22,040 for Regional Council membership to the Barnes County Commission. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Retail Business Marketing: Created booklet to promote Valley City and assist with filling vacant buildings. Will be distributed to realtors and others that find it useful. Changes will be made as needed. Workforce Training: Meetings today for soft skills training. VCSU staff is skilling up over the summer on EKG Technician training. Detailed numbers on welding classes are included. Working on a recruiting database, tracking over 100 individuals. Banquet: Went well. Bismarck Academy Tour: Looking to see if similar program would be viable at High School, SVACTC or college level. Soybean Processing Meeting: Contacted last minute to set up meeting with area farmers; funding is still needed. Legislative Budgets: Funding has been approved for VCSU's new Fine Arts and Communications building plus \$1 Million for building improvements. Flood protection

funds have also been approved. Larry Robinson played a major role in these approvals. Expect the wind farm east of town to start this year. Jeff Bopp's retirement Open House is Thursday, May 16th. Steve Thompson has been hired as the new director (currently IT Director at the Center). Jeff will assist during the transition time. Ag Program has struggled; they recently hired a teacher with 17 years of experience.

There being no further business, President Josh Kasowski adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development