

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2019
6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Training Lab)

PRESENT: Josh Kasowski, Paige Bjornson, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, Dean Kinney, John Froelich, Matt Pedersen, Mike Bishop, Bobby Koeplin, Dave Carlsrud, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

ABSENT: JoAnn Hooper, Luke Trapp and Mary Lee Nielson

EX-OFFICIO: Chad Petersen, KLJ and Paul Diegel, Six D Construction
President Josh Kasowski called the meeting to order at 6:45 a.m.

AGENDA: No changes.

MINUTES: Mike Bishop moved to approve the May 13th minutes. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: See summary financial report, Flex PACE activity and cash balances. Mary Simonson moved to approve financial statements as presented. Matt Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:50 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to go into Executive Session. Dean Kinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:10 a.m. Bobby Koeplin moved to close the Executive Session. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Paige Bjornson moved to elect Josh Kasowski as President, Mary Lee Nielson as President-Elect, and Jennifer Feist as Secretary/Treasurer. Wade Bruns seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONAL CENTER/UPDATE: Advertising RFQ for architect. Process is on hold until one is hired. Our interest in development of the site.

SPECIAL MEETING WITH COUNTY COMMISSION/WORKFORCE: Questions raised about supporting Valley City and Barnes County schools, workforce initiatives, etc. Would like joint meeting with full County Commission and our Board plus educational entities. Need County funds to address workforce needs and educational support. Meeting with Barnes County Schools. Need information and agenda in advance so time can be spent on questions and discussion. Include City Commission.

CITY OF VALLEY CITY-REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR 2019-2020 FISCAL YEAR/PRELIMINARY BUDGET: Preliminary 2019-2020 Budget request to move from \$32,000 to \$33,000. Need to find \$5,000 of unrestricted funds. George Gaukler moved to request \$33,000 from the City. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DAKOTA SILVER PARTNERSHIP: Mary Simonson moved to recognize a conflict of interest for Paige Bjornson and Luke Trapp. Matt Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mary Simonson moved to approve \$8,000 in Flex PACE funds. Mike Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Paige Bjornson abstained. Luke Trapp – absent and not voting. NOTE: **Actual amount per Bank of ND \$8,125.59.**

EAGLE CREEK: Mary Simonson moved to offer the \$500,000 secured through the ND Development Fund to Eagle Creek as presented. Paige Bjornson seconded. This motion supersedes prior motion (former motion was tied to other initiatives). If terms and/or conditions are different than presented, will come back to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

PREVENTICE SOLUTIONS: No action.

JULY SCHEDULE: Director of Development gone the week of July 1st, reschedule Board meeting to July 15th. Office will be closed July 5th. Mary Simonson moved to approve the date change. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Career & Job Expo: Only 30 people attended, 12 of those being students; 14 businesses participated and would be interested in doing so again with different timing. Want career counselors to attend. Recruiting process needs to happen all the time, not only when positions are open. Build the pipeline, get the names of businesses out. Hold annually in April (early). Businesses are looking at recruiting differently. We represented companies who had openings but were not be able to be there. Feedback includes: \$100 was a high cost, earlier notice about the event would be appreciated, partner with VCSU (the scope of employers may be too different). Workforce/Community: Need quality career opportunity but need a great place to live. Current workforce tends to change jobs more often. Comes in waves, sometimes need applicants, sometimes not. Those who are receiving tours (Eagle Creek candidates) seem pleasantly surprised and pleased by Valley City. Can never stop; always need to make improvements. Private investments have been substantial and positive. How do places like Gwinner (Bobcat) or Thief River Falls (Digi-Key) support large employment? It helps to have long-term track record of company with good pay, benefits and work environment. Buildings: See Director's Report for details. Good to follow all of the specifics.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development