

**Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting**  
**Monday, July 15, 2019**  
**6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Training Lab)**

**PRESENT:** JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Bobby Koeplin, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, Dean Kinney, John Froelich, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Mike Bishop, Dave Carlsrud, Mary Lee Nielson (arrived at 7:30 am), Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

**ABSENT:** Josh Kasowski

**EX-OFFICIO:** Derrick Bopp, SVACTC and Margaret Dahlberg, VCSU (for Alan LaFave)

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

**AGENDA:** No changes.

**MINUTES:** Bank of ND final Flex PACE is \$8,125.59 for Dakota Silver; previously stated as up to \$8,000. Matt Pedersen moved to recognize a conflict of interest for Paige Bjornson and Luke Trapp regarding Dakota Silver. Dave Carlsrud seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Bobby Koeplin moved to approve adjusted amount of Flex PACE of \$8,125.59. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried. Paige Bjornson and Luke Trapp abstained. Mary Simonson moved to approve the June 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. Luke Trapp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** Provided all financial statements for the quarter ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. Class 210: Budget balance of \$201,938.62. Class 600: Marketing includes workforce training, transferring funds from the City to Class 600. Class 800: Tech II cash balance of \$141,653.44. VCDC: Building improvements are needed; details listed in staff report. Mike Bishop moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 7:00 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to go into Executive Session. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**KAPP REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC:** Paige Bjornson moved to acknowledge a conflict of interest for Luke Trapp. Matt Pederson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mary Simonson moved to approve transfer of Flex PACE from Josh and Alison Kasowski to KAPP Real Estate Holdings, LLC. Mike Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Luke Trapp abstained.

**JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER:** Received proposals from architects – will be interviewing them and selecting one within the next few weeks.

**SALESFORCE AT VCSU:** Eagle Creek applicants need Salesforce skills prior to in-house training. Other companies use Salesforce, huge growth in market. Would like funds to pay half of the cost associated with VCSU to hire a full-time position to replace the part-time position that has currently been open for two years. Hopefully enrollment would grow to cover the full cost within two years. Courses could be provided online or in a classroom depending on need. Start with face to face classes and build online program later. Need on-campus faculty to provide other services. Instructor does not need to be certified, but to be licensed and ready to teach the initial class would take 40 hours of training. It is critical for Eagle Creek hires to have basic Salesforce training; there is potential to build a workforce locally.

**NOTE:** Mary Lee Nielson joined the meeting at 7:30 am.

George Gaukler moved to approve \$100,000 (½ City funds and ½ County funds) over two years for 50% of the salary, benefits and training costs for instructor. Those with a Master's Degree earn approximately \$50,000 – \$55,000. VCSU tracks all positions in detail. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, Dean Kinney, John Froelich, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Mike Bishop, Mary Lee Nielson and Dave Carlsrud. Nay: Bobby Koeplin.

Note: Mary Lee Nielson assumed running the meeting.

**BRIDGES ARTS COUNCIL:** Requesting \$10,500 over three years as matching funds to hire a part-time contracted position who would help bring the Community School for the Arts and Bridges Arts Council together to form a collaborative and strong arts community. Arts organizations are fragmented and not able to meet the needs of the community. Too much work to expect volunteers to do it. Arts are important; Board feedback used to create a solid plan. Wahpeton, Jamestown and Battle Lake are examples of the arts working well. Are the organizations willing to work together? George Gaukler moved to approve \$10,500 of Roundtable Funds for the Bridges Arts Council paid over three years. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlbom, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, John Froelich, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Mike Bishop, Mary Lee Nielson and Dave Carlsrud. Nays: Bobby Koeplin and Dean Kinney.

**AMERICAN LEGION, WIMBLEDON:** Requesting maximum grant amount to help with building improvements. Raised \$26,000 of the \$55,402 needed. No other places in town that can meet the needs and provide these services. The Legion building is used as a community center; includes food and bar. Do we set criteria for these types of projects? Other small communities need community facilities also. We have funded other non-profit projects in the past. Not funding working capital. John Froelich moved to approve a grant of \$7,500 from County economic development funds for the building repairs. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: JoAnn Hooper, George Gaukler, Bill Carlbom, Luke Trapp, Wade Bruns, Mary Simonson, John Froelich, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Mike Bishop, Mary Lee Nielson and Dave Carlsrud. Nays: Bobby Koeplin and Dean Kinney.

**WORKFORCE:** Meeting with County Commission and representatives from area schools, City and VCSU, to discuss workforce and how to help schools meet workforce needs. Received good comments. Outline a plan in all areas. How do we keep people accountable who participate in training? Make sure we are accomplishing what we want or need. Mary Simonson commented about the University of Minnesota speaker who said this is a national and state crisis and our Departments of Commerce and Labor must be at the table. All parties need to work together to overcome challenges. Workforce is much more mobile. Have already hosted three welding classes with fourth one starting August 5<sup>th</sup>; soft skills class is in progress. Do we want to be a regional training center; allow individuals outside of Barnes County to participate in classes or maintain Barnes County only? The goal of classes is to skill up people. Should the stipend be paid or would there be enough interest if participants would need to pay a fee? Transitioned from paying per employee to paying to workforce training.

There being no further business, President-Elect Mary Lee Nielson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist, Director of Development