

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2020
6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Training Lab)

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

ABSENT: Wade Bruns

EX-OFFICIO: Dr. Alan LaFave, VCSU

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

AGENDA: Add Annual Banquet under Director's Report.

MINUTES: Mary Simonson moved to approve the February 10th minutes. Dean Kinney seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Noted that we paid \$88,300 in property taxes and special assessments. NW Industrial Park Building-Cash is tight, receivables from both tenants. Bill Carlblom moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:00 a.m. JoAnn Hooper moved to close the Executive Session. Mike Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSH PRIZE: Committee received proposals for funding. Visioning - \$23,500, Valley City Public Schools - \$50,000 dual credit, Career Academy - \$100,000 set aside, City County Health District - \$20,000 for feasibility study, Byway - \$20,000, River Trail/Kayak Kiosk, Hockey - \$10,000 for heating, Sheyenne Valley Friends of Animals - \$2,500 for second dog park, Sheyenne Valley Area Career & Technology Center - \$60,000 for career academy and \$4,500 for Wi-Fi on one bus. Committee will meet with each entity to understand any changes since proposals were received. Requests totaled \$669,000 for \$350,000. VCBCDC would retain \$23,500 to continue the Visioning Initiative and list on the bottom as a separate line item. Bobby Koepplin indicated nonprofits are competing with the Community Foundation; a great deal of funding is going to education between VC Public Schools, VCSU and the Career & Technology Center and there's no guarantee any of the students will stay here. Byway marketing would be for the community and aims to get our name out beyond Barnes County and ND. Relocation package can be under workforce; a recruiting incentive plan was presented, but we have not approved it. Paddle Trail-80% RTP and Garrison Diversion grants. Requesting change from \$20,000 to \$30,000-need to understand why? What are the measurables, for these and all of our programs. Mary Simonson noted that the Open Door Center has a soft skills graduate utilizing her skills in her position by training other staff and working on retention. Proposals are tangible and hard to measure. SVACTC is expanding Kalyn Botz's time which is a good use of funding. Bus Wi-Fi-how do we know if it is effective? The school should be able to monitor; students and teachers must be accountable. Growing our own workforce is a way to help with workforce needs. Partners are key-VCPS, VCSU, SVACTC are all inter-related. Working on business plan for Career Academy. Employment for trailing spouse/significant other/family members, etc. is important. Relocation packages and good jobs are key so people are able to work at one good job vs. three jobs. Quality of life is key for relocation and retention. Dual credit options-how do we get students to stay at VCSU or in the State? VCSU-rural schools are having difficulty attracting and retaining students and we want to help. Waiving 50% of graduate tuition through the Rural Partner Benefit Program. Does not result in large numbers, but has a big impact. Hockey Club

is looking into options for heaters. VCPS-is the Education Foundation partnering? VCSU is providing the website and survey for The Longest Table, which may be the way to reenergize the Visioning Initiative. Good ideas need good money behind them. Thanks to the Committee for their work. Limit interviews to 15 minutes. What is the minimum they can get by with for seed money?

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Valley Plains Equipment: Purchasing land in October. Working to find funds to cover water and sewer being extended to the south side of the Interstate. Need to establish a development plan. Waterfront Meadows: Looking to begin a single-family housing development south of town, which requires utilities including natural gas to sites. Correctional Center: Replat on Planning & Zoning agenda. Separated 12 acres into two lots. Will make space for 24-foot paved road with 20 ft. set back; do not gain by moving the road to the east side. Could save money later on if the road could be shared with our property. Annual Banquet: Potential dates are April 27 or May 4. Mike Bishop moved to establish Nominating Committee comprised of Bobby Koeplin, Mary Simonson and Dean Kinney. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Directors up for re-election: Mary Lee Nielson, Paige Bjornson, Wade Bruns and JoAnn Hooper. Will need new County representative to replace John Froehlich who publicly indicated he is not running for reelection.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development