

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting
Monday, June 13, 2022
6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center (Training Lab), 415 Winter Show Road

PRESENT: Matt Pedersen, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Wade Bruns, Dick Gulmon, Paige Bjornson, Mary Simonson, Dean Kinney, Josh Kasowski, Jennifer Feist and Trinity Nelson

ABSENT: Mary Lee Nielson, Bobby Koeplin, Pete Paulson, Paul Diegel, Mike Bishop and Luke Trapp

EXOFFICIO: Dr. Alan LaFave, VCSU; David Beierle, John Deere; and Gwen Crawford, City Administrator
President-Elect Matt Pedersen called the meeting to order at 6:45 a.m.

AGENDA: Additions after Item 9 include: 9(a) Regional Workforce Impact Program (RWIP) - Use of funds; 9(b) VCBCDC Building Purchase for Rural Business; under Director's Report, add 10(c) Medical Insurance and 10(d) Building Insurance

MINUTES: Mary Simonson moved to approve the minutes of the May 9th Board Meeting and June 1st Special Board meeting. Josh Kasowski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Statements: Unrestricted funds of \$45,000. Requested workforce development funds from the City previously approved. Class 200 Flex PACE Payments are being received; Class 800 \$82,120 balance. Dick Gulmon moved to approve the financial statements. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:51 a.m. Mary Simonson moved to go into Executive Session. Josh Kasowski seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:40 a.m.: Bill Carlblom moved to close the Executive Session. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VALLEY CITY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION: Wade Bruns moved to recognize a conflict of interest for Josh Kasowski. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dick Gulmon moved to approve a Flex PACE loan request of up to \$5,500 for a new clubhouse. Dean Kinney seconded. Josh Kasowski abstained. Motion carried.

JOHN BORG: Paige Bjornson moved to recognize a conflict of Interest for Josh Kasowski. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Paige Bjornson moved to approve a Flex PACE loan up to \$5,000 for equipment purchases. Mary Simonson seconded. Josh Kasowski abstained. Motion carried.

CITY BUDGET REQUEST: Preliminary budget request of \$35,000 for the Corporation's professional contracted services with funds from the Sales Tax dedicated to economic development. Wade Bruns moved to approve the \$35,000 request and submit a request to the City of Valley City. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD RESIGNATION: Received resignation letter from Paige Bjornson. She stated they are moving to Fargo and she will be leading the opening of a new Dacotah Bank branch. Thank you for your 12 years on the VCBCDC Board. Unexpired term of 1 year. Will reach out to ex-officio members first to gauge interest. Mary Simonson moved to accept Paige Bjornson's resignation. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROJECT: No motions.

RWIP: Use up to \$20,000 from previously approved funds (\$250,000 pool) to implement a recruiting effort; this is a \$4 to \$1 matching grant through the Dept. of Commerce. Investment includes updates to our website, marketing Barnes County, Billboard, etc. that will dovetail/leverage Find the Good Life.

BUILDING PURCHASE: Approached by business start-up; owner would like the VCBCDC to purchase a building for his business and set up a lease to own. Not where we want to go. Want to support the business to the best of our capacity. Jennifer will work with the individual, assist as appropriate and come back to the Board if/when a project can be submitted for consideration.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Sales Tax: Be sure to vote. Health Insurance: Employer's share of 75% provided as reimbursement is taxable income. Very specific rules about a HAS. Is there another way to adjust this? Building Insurance: Insure at replacement cost rather than a lesser amount; addresses rapidly rising costs.

There being no further business, President-Elect Matt Pedersen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development