

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING BETWEEN THE
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB) AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 7, 2021
Via ZOOM Video Conference**

Board Members

Present: Art Benson, Rollie Boll, Donna Boonstra, Jesse Gislason, Les Heitke, Kerry Johnson and Kelly TerWisscha

Finance Committee

Members Present: Matt Behm, Nick Dalton, Travis Jones and Les Nelson

Ex Officio: Julie Asmus

Guest: Cheryl Glaeser, Achieve TFC

Excused: Justin Schnichels

Staff: Aaron Backman, Executive Director and Connie Schmoll, Business Development Manager

Media: Macklin Caruso, Lakes Area Review and Shelby Lindrud, West Central Tribune

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

The meeting began with self introductions. Aaron Backman provided information on a new grant program developed by Kandiyohi County and EDC staff and created from \$831,645 in state funds disbursed to Kandiyohi County. The new program, Minnesota Pandemic Relief (MPR) Grant Program, received \$749,194 of those funds. Kandiyohi County would like to begin approving grant disbursements on January 12; thus, the need for this meeting. The application deadline is February 17, 2021. This program has a minimum of \$20,000 in revenue from Q4 of 2019 compared with Q4 of 2020 and has more ineligible applicants compared to the CARES Pandemic Relief Grant (CPR) Program.

Connie Schmoll reported there were several meetings between EDC staff and Kandiyohi County administration related to the program. It is very important to the county that Tier I businesses be funded. Schmoll explained the three tiers noting that Tier III businesses will not be awarded a grant until all Tier I and Tier II businesses that apply have been funded. Final grant recommendations will be brought to the County Board on March 2, 2021.

Backman requested that EDC staff and the Finance Committee be given administrative approval of these grants. Backman would like the Finance Committee to meet weekly during the six week program.

It was explained that Tier III businesses may not be funded until the program deadline. Many Tier I businesses will receive funds directly from the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) and will not qualify for the MPR Grant Program. There is no application process for the DOR funds; the funds will be sent direct to the businesses based on sales tax sales from quarters 2 and 3 of 2019 to quarters 2 and 3 of 2020.

Nick Dalton felt the criteria appears vague as to how seasonal businesses will be handled. Businesses owned by owners who live outside Kandiyohi County are eligible for the program; however, chain businesses are ineligible.

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Les Nelson, to recommend to the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission's Joint Operations Board that it approve the Minnesota Pandemic Relief Grant Program. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to approve the Minnesota Pandemic Relief Grant Program, receipt of the grant funds of \$749,194 from Kandiyohi County and to revise the 2021 budget to add income and expense line items for the program. MOTION CARRIED.

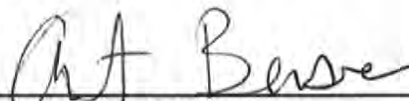
A press release will be sent out promoting the new program. Backman stated emails will be sent and phone calls will be made to some of the restaurants making them aware of the program.

Schmoll reported Corky Berg was appointed chair of the County Board and Roger Imdieke as vice chair. Those appointed to the Joint Powers Board were Corky Berg, Steve Gardner and Rollie Nissen. Backman stated Kerry Johnson will be serving on the Willmar Municipal Utility Commission and, thus, will not be appointed to another term on the Joint Operations Board.

ADJOURNMENT—

IT WAS MOVED BY Jesse Gislason, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.



Art Benson, Secretary

APPROVED: 2/11/2021:



Kelly TerWisscha, President