

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2020

Via Teleconference

Present: Matt Behm, Travis Jones, Les Nelson, Justin Schnichels, Jeff Welker and Randy Zinda

Excused: Kerry Johnson

Absent: Nick Dalton

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

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc.

Chairperson Matt Behm called the meeting to order at approximately 11:03 a.m. followed by roll call.

Aaron Backman thanked the committee for the extra meetings noting this is their eighth meeting over the past two months. He will bring to the Joint Operations Board this committee's recommendation as to use of the COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan (COBAL) Program funds remaining. A total of 30 COBAL applications have been received, 21 of which were approved totaling \$97,500. The program goes until July. Backman reported other counties have replicated the EDC's COBAL program. Backman brought to the committee's attention that the recent article in the *West Central Tribune* included a few restaurants helped by the EDC's COBAL program.

NEW BUSINESS

Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant Reviews. Backman noted several grant applications have been received. The committee reviewed the following grant applications:

- Mr Clean Willmar Area Cleaning Services L.L.C. Backman provided information on Mr Clean Willmar Area Cleaning Services L.L.C. located in Willmar. The business primarily cleans commercial locations and the grant would be used to purchase a disinfecting sprayer and product for disinfecting. Staff is recommending a grant of \$650 based on two employees. The business is registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State and a copy of the tax return was received.

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Jeff Welker, to approve a \$650 grant under the Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant program to Mr Clean Willmar Area Cleaning Services L.L.C. MOTION CARRIED.

- USCare Homecare LLC. Connie Schmoll provided information on USCare Homecare LLC, which provides home care to elderly. The owner Kadar Abdi had applied for a COBAL, but the business did not qualify under the guidelines. The grant would be used for rent and utilities. A six-month profit and loss and projections were received. EDC staff is recommending a grant of \$750 based on four employees and the company's overhead of salary, insurance, rent, marketing, utilities and telephone.

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Travis Jones, to approve a \$750 grant under the Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant program to USCare Homecare LLC.

MOTION CARRIED.

- Amin Grocery, LLC. Backman provided information on Amin Grocery, LLC . The owner Abdiweli Yusuf attended the EDC's Retail Business Design Workshop. Staff is still awaiting financial information and, thus, Backman is recommending the grant application be held until the information is received.
- Soma Fashion Store L.L.C. Schmoll provided information on Soma Fashion Store L.L.C., which has only been in business six months. The grant would be used for rent and utilities. The business was denied federal funds. Backman reported the owner, Abshir Ahmed, is a production supervisor at Jennie-O Turkey Store. EDC staff is recommending a grant of \$650 based on two employees.

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Jeff Welker, to approve a \$650 grant under the Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant program to Soma Fashion Store L.L.C..

MOTION CARRIED.

Backman announced checks were presented to four of the five businesses the committee approved last week. Each business was grateful for the grants.

COBAL Loan Reviews. Backman reported M & D Transport LLC, a trucking company located in Willmar, owned by Mohamed Ahmed, applied for COBAL with a request for \$30,000. The business does not meet the current loan criteria. Financial documentation was received and reviewed. Backman referred Ahmed to Southwest Initiative Foundation for funding. EDC staff is recommending the loan not be approved based on eligibility. No action was taken.

Backman reported the childcare grants were sent to 88 home-based childcare providers. Schmoll reported five providers sent their thanks for the grant that was received. Backman stated the EDC is trying to get the message out on its new programs and asked if there are businesses being missed that may be in need of help. Latino businesses was a suggestion, but as to the grant program, it was noted that many of the Latino businesses have been in business longer than seven years and/or many are not immigrants.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **12 noon, Tuesday, June 9, 2020** via teleconference.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.