

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**September 29, 2020**

**Via Teleconference**

Present: Matt Behm, Kerry Johnson, Les Nelson, Jeff Welker and Randy Zinda

Excused: Travis Jones

Absent: Nick Dalton and Justin Schnichels

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

Guest: Jean Spaulding, Kandiyohi County CARES Act Coordinator

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

Chairperson Matt Behm called the meeting to order at approximately 11:02 a.m.

**NEW BUSINESS—**

**CARES Pandemic Relief (CPR) Grant Program.** Aaron Backman noted that as of yesterday, the EDC has received 218 applications (184 business and 34 nonprofits). Of the business applications, 87 are located in Willmar, 18 in New London, 17 in Spicer and the remaining from 6 other cities and 13 townships. For the nonprofit organizations, 22 are located in Willmar, 4 in New London and the remaining in 2 other cities and 2 townships. Kerry Johnson noted that during this process she has been made aware of many businesses previously unknown to her and it is a good reminder of the diversity of businesses in the county.

The committee reviewed a list of 20 small business CPR grant applicants with EDC staff's recommendation as to a grant award (due to data privacy, a confidential list is on file). The average years in business for these applicants is 6.75 with an average loss of 57% and average full-time employees of 3.65. Backman reported approximately \$2,486,000 has been received by the EDC from Kandiyohi County and its units of government. If the applications to be presented today are approved, the total grants awarded will be \$2,222,000. The EDC has received another six applications for approval next week. Backman believes funds will run out on October 6<sup>th</sup> and noted that starting today, the time of day applications are received are noted along with the date. Some discussions have been held with Kandiyohi County on the possibility of receiving additional funds. Jean Spaulding stated she and Larry Kleindl will be discussing this week whether or not additional funds will be available for the grant program. Backman reported the criteria change to allow businesses that opened on or before January 1, 2020 to apply has affected approximately six businesses to date. Connie Schmoll reported she, Backman and Cheryl Glaeser have called those

businesses previously deemed ineligible due to the number of months in business. There are approximately 12 businesses deemed ineligible due to the percentage of loss, however, Backman is not recommending lowering the criteria at this time.

Following discussion of the applicants,

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Les Nelson, to approve the recommendation of the EDC staff to award CARES Pandemic Relief Grants to 20 businesses on the list provided for a total grant award of \$188,000. MOTION CARRIED.

The committee considered the nonprofit CPR grant applicants with EDC staff's recommendation as to a grant award. Schmoll noted the Humane Society of Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties will be using any funds it may receive for its Kandiyohi County location. Following discussion of the grant criteria and the applicants,

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Randy Zinda, to approve the recommendation of the EDC staff to award CARES Pandemic Relief Grants to the following nonprofit organizations: Humane Society of Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties in the amount of \$17,500; Family Promise of Kandiyohi County for \$34,500 and The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County for \$23,500 for total grant awards of \$75,500. MOTION CARRIED.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next special committee meeting is **11:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 6, 2020** via teleconference.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:24 a.m.