

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2020

Via Teleconference

Present: Nick Dalton, Travis Jones, Les Nelson, Jeff Welker and Randy Zinda

Excused: Matt Behm, Kerry Johnson and Justin Schnichels

Guest: Jean Spaulding, Kandiyohi County CARES Coordinator

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

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

Vice Chairperson Nick Dalton called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA—

IT WAS MOVED BY Jeff Welker, SECONDED BY Randy Zinda, to approve the Agenda as emailed.
MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Travis Jones, to approve the Minutes of the August 4, August 11, August 18, August 25 and September 1, 2020 meetings as emailed.
MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS—Aaron Backman reported there are no applications for the Immigrant Business Relief Grant Program and there is one application pending under the COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan Program, but not all of the required information has been received.

CARES Pandemic Relief (CPR) Grant Program. Aaron Backman reported 164 grant applications have been received to date. The first 75 grants approved have been paid out. Approximately 60% of the grant awards were to businesses located in Willmar.

The committee reviewed a list of 19 small business CPR grant applicants with EDC staff's recommendation as to a grant award (list attached to original Minutes only due to the Data Privacy Act). The average years in business for these applicants is 14 with an average loss of 63%. All of these businesses are currently open. Following discussion of the applicants,

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Jeff Welker, to approve the recommendation of the EDC staff to award CARES Pandemic Relief Grants to 19 businesses on the list provided for a total grant award of \$196,500. MOTION CARRIED.

The committee reviewed a list of three nonprofit organizations that have applied for a CPR Grant (see attached). Following discussion of 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: Eagles Nest Preschool and Childcare for \$21,500; Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. for \$29,500 and Willmar Lakes Area Convention & Visitors Bureau for \$27,000. MOTION CARRIED.

Backman stated the grants approved today and last week will be presented to the County Board at their September 15th meeting.

Backman informed the committee that the Small Business/Nonprofit Planning Team met and determined that food truck businesses would be eligible for the CPR Grant Program as long as the business or a home office is located in Kandiyohi County.

Schmoll indicated that it appears all grant funds will be expended, but if there are funds remaining, she and Backman would ask the committee to consider applications from businesses that had less than a 25% loss, as well as nonprofit organizations that did not meet the current criteria. Discussion was held on the financial criteria and whether or not to change it.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **11:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2020** via teleconference. Jones indicated he is not available for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:27 p.m.

