

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
FINANCE COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 30, 2020
Via Teleconference

Present: Matt Behm, Nick Dalton, Les Nelson, Justin Schnichels and Randy Zinda

Excused: Jean Spaulding, Kandiyohi County CARES Coordinator, and Kerry Johnson

Absent: Travis Jones

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

Secretarial: Diane Beck, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc.

Chairperson Matt Behm called the meeting to order at approximately 11:01 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS—

CARES Pandemic Relief (CPR) Grant Program. Aaron Backman reported the deadline for the CPR Grant Program business applications was October 29th and shared since July, the EDC has received a total of 305 applications (260 small business and 45 nonprofit organizations. Backman noted there have been 231 business applications: 198 applications from 10 cities; 33 township applications from 17 townships and 46 (20%) from diverse businesses. The average length of tenure of business was 14 years. The average tenure of 17 small business applications for today's meeting is 18.5 years. The 231 business recipients employ close to 1,100 employees. Of the 45 nonprofit organizations; 38 were approved and they have approximately 300 employees.

The committee reviewed the list of 17 small business CPR grant applications with EDC's staff recommendation as to a grant award (list attached to original Minutes only due to the Data Privacy Act). The average loss for these businesses is 60%. Chair Behm inquired of the 100% loss for Kent Transportation and Abdifafi Transportation. Backman explained. Les Nelson inquired if other realty businesses have submitted applications. Backman explained and felt Doug Fenstra Realty met the criteria. Following discussion,

IT WAS MOVED BY Nick Dalton, SECONDED BY Les Nelson to approve the Recommendation of the EDC staff to award CARES Pandemic Relief Grants to 17 businesses on the list provided for a total grant award of \$156,500. MOTION CARRIED.

Backman shared Jean Spaulding, Kandiyohi County CARES Coordinator has very helpful throughout the process and has kept the EDC staff informed. Backman reported two small business applications were received after the October 29th 5:00 p.m. deadline and one nonprofit application was received a week late. Applications received after the deadline date will be retained in case additional funding becomes available. Backman shared the EDC CARES Act funds did not cover all the CPR grants applications approved by the Finance Committee on October 27th and those approved today. Schmoll reported the County has agreed to cover the remaining \$279,000 for the approved applications. The applications will be presented to the County Board on November 3rd. Spaulding informed Schmoll \$440,000 in CPR Grant applications will be considered by the County Board on November 3.

Backman reported the grand total of CARES Act funds expended for businesses and nonprofits is over \$3.3 million. With the addition of the Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant Program (\$17,450), the COVID-19 Business Assistance (COBAL) Program (\$127,500) and the Child Care Grant Program (\$28,600), the total is approximately \$3.5 million. Over 400 checks have been mailed to businesses in the last seven months; the majority of checks were under \$10,000. Schmoll commented the EDC has also received residual checks from cities and townships which has enabled the EDC to provide additional funding to small businesses and nonprofits.

[Justin Schnichels joined the meeting.]

Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant Program. Backman presented one application under the Immigrant Disaster Relief Grant Program (see attached). Backman commented the grant amount is \$750.

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Nick Dalton, to approve the Recommendation of the EDC staff to award a grant under the Immigrant Business Relief Grant Program to Daryeel Health Solutions in the amount of \$750.
MOTION CARRIED.

Backman informed the committee that the Joint Powers Board approved extending the COVID-10 Business Assistance Loan program to the end of November.

Chair Behm commended Aaron and Connie for their work during the CARES Act program. He mentioned he is willing to give up his Chairperson duties. Backman shared this teleconference should be the last for a while unless a project or issue arises. The only programs that remain in effect are the Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant program and the COVID-19 Business Assistance (COBAL) program. Backman stated unless the EDC receives applications from these program, the Finance Committee may not meet until December. Backman thanked the Finance Committee for their participation in the numerous 'special' Finance Committee meetings from July through October.

NEXT MEETING—The date of the next special committee meeting is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.