

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 17, 2021**

**Via ZOOM Video Conference**

**Present:** Matt Behm, Nick Dalton, Allen Huselid, Kerry Johnson, Travis Jones and Les Nelson

**Excused:** Justin Schnichels

**Guests:** Larry Kleindl, Kandiyohi County Administrator and Jean Spaulding, Kandiyohi County CARES Act Coordinator

**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 12:01 p.m.

**AGENDA**—Added to the Agenda was item 5b, Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant application.

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Travis Jones, to approve the Agenda as revised.  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MINUTES**—

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Travis Jones, to approve the Minutes of the January 12, January 20, January 27 and February 3, 2021 meetings as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**—There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Minnesota Pandemic Relief (MPR) Grant Program.** Aaron Backman reported the EDC has received a total of 81 applications—23 from business and 3 from nonprofits. The EDC received \$749,194 from Kandiyohi County for this grant program. The EDC will not be able to fund any Tier III applications. There are 25 applications to be considered today, 4 of which have not received any prior funding, requests total just under \$832,000, which is greater than the funds on hand. Backman previously requested the county

allocate \$10,000 for administrative work. With the expenses incurred to date and estimated through April, there may be approximately \$6,400 remaining, which could possibly used for another grant. Discussion was held on the grant requests presented.

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Nick Dalton, to remove DAJ Properties from consideration of any grant funds. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY Nick Dalton, SECONDED BY Kerry Johnson, to recommend to Kandiyohi County that it fully fund all six Tier I and all Tier II businesses on the attached list (copy attached to the original minutes only due to the Data Privacy Act) from the Minnesota Pandemic Relief Grant Program for a total grant award of \$757,500. MOTION CARRIED.

Kleindl thanked the committee for its work on the grant programs. He believes that most of the businesses will receive some funding.

[Kleindl and Spaulding were excused from the meeting.]

**Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant.** Schmoll presented information on the applicant Sewn Edge, owned by a Hmong couple. Staff is recommending funding a grant in the amount of \$750.

IT WAS MOVED BY Nick, SECONDED BY Kerry Johnson, to approve a \$750 grant under the Immigrant Business Disaster Relief Grant Program. MOTION CARRIED.

Backman thanked the committee for meeting almost weekly since the opening of the CARES Pandemic Relief Grant Program in 2020.

Backman informed the committee that the EDC purchased surplus property from Ridgewater College. Several developers are interested in purchasing the property for a housing or mixed use project. The EDC is looking to recover its costs for the purchase of the property.

Schmoll informed the committee of a new 12-week training program called Elevate on starting a business. It is believed Scott Marquardt of Southwest Initiative Foundation informed all area banks of the program.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next committee meeting is **12:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2021** via Zoom video conference.