

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2020

Via Teleconference

Present: Matt Behm, Nick Dalton, Kerry Johnson, Travis Jones, Les Nelson, Jeff Welker and Randy Zinda

Absent: 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.

Chairperson Matt Behm called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS—

CARES Pandemic Relief (CPR) Grant Program. Aaron Backman reported that to date, the EDC has received 143 applications (average of 6 each day); 38 of which have been approved and paid; and another 48 approved by this committee are being considered today by the County Board of Commissioners. Today, the committee will review 16 business applications and 2 nonprofit applications. There have been 15 applications deemed ineligible and 12 applications are under review for the committee's next meeting. From the applications received to date, 83% have been submitted by for-profit businesses. Submissions by nonprofit organizations has slowed down.

COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan (COBAL) Program. Connie Schmoll reported the recent applicants for the COBAL Program are those that do not meet the thresholds for the CPR Grant Program.

Immigrant Business Relief Grant Program. Backman noted there has not been much activity for this program of late.

CPR Grant Application Reviews. The committee reviewed a list of 16 small business CPR grant applicants with EDC staff's recommendation as to a grant award (copy attached to original only due to Data Privacy Act). Following discussion of the applicants,

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Kerry Johnson, to approve the recommendation of the EDC staff to award CARES Pandemic Relief Grants to 16 businesses on the attached list for a total grant award of \$150,000. MOTION CARRIED.

The committee reviewed a list of two nonprofit organizations that have applied for a CPR grant (see attached). Schmoll noted the Atwater Area Help for Seniors has continued to provide services to Atwater's senior community and, in fact, increased services unlike other senior service providers in the county. It has also provided education during the pandemic.

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 the following nonprofit organizations: Atwater Area Help for Seniors for \$34,500 and American Legion Post No. 537 (New London) for \$23,500. MOTION CARRIED.

Childcare Providers. Schmoll reported a letter on the CPR Grant Program was sent to all 88 of the county's licensed childcare providers. Schmoll and Cheryl Glaeser are following up with telephone calls to each to ensure they apply as not all consider themselves a business. Schmoll stated some providers have received other grants, including the Minnesota Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grants, which must be used to pay for services for current clients. Some providers will begin receiving \$1,200 a month in September and some have increased their clientele making them ineligible for the CPR Grant. Schmoll noted the list of providers the EDC has been in contact with was provided by Kandiyohi County and does not include unlicensed providers.

Ineligible Applicants. Backman noted there has been an increase in ineligible business applications. Ten of the 15 ineligible applicants had less than a 25% loss in revenues; 2 applications were incomplete; 2 were ineligible due to business duration and not having a previous year's financial comparison and 1 was because its closure was announced. Backman noted that in the future this committee and the Planning Team may want to reconsider some of the ineligible businesses if funds remain at the end of the program. If all funds are not encumbered by November 15th, the funds are to be returned to the county. It was the committee's consensus to stay consistent with the current criteria and possibly reconsider applications that are close to the 25% loss in revenues, if funds remain at the end of the program.

Jean Spaulding reported the County Board approved the grant awards that were presented today.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **12:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2020** via teleconference. Behm and Johnson stated they will be on vacation the week of September 7 and unable to attend. Dalton will chair the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.