

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2020

Via Teleconference

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

Excused: Travis Jones and Justin Schnichels

Absent: Nick Dalton

Staff: Aaron Backman, Executive Director; 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 under New Business was an additional COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan request by Mubarak Food & Grocery, Inc.

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Kerry Johnson, to approve the revised Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Kerry Johnson, to approve the Minutes of the October 13, 27 and 30, 2020 meetings. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CARES Pandemic Relief (CPR) Grant Program. Aaron Backman gave an update on the CPR Grant Program noting grants were given to 231 businesses at an approximate total of \$3.3 million and to 38 nonprofit organizations. The county provided another \$194,000 to distribute to pre-qualified businesses that already received grants and were recently closed by the Governor, i.e. restaurants/bars, fitness centers and hospitality businesses. In total, the EDC distributed approximately \$3.5 million in CPR Grants. With the other programs started as a result of the pandemic, the EDC has distributed approximately \$3.7 million noting the EDC did very well with its funds compared to programs done by other counties. Backman stated he has been invited to participate in state meetings about a possible new state program.

NEW BUSINESS

Microenterprise Loan Request. Backman provided information on a loan request by La Manzanita Mexican Market, which is locating in the former BP gas station on Highway 12. The business is in good standing with the Minnesota Secretary of State and would offer collateral consisting of two new freezers and a fryer. The business would like to open by the third week of December 2020.

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Kerry Johnson, to recommend to the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission Joint Operations Board that it approve a three-year loan of either \$8,000 at 3% interest or \$9,000 at 4.5% interest under the Microenterprise Loan Program to La Manzanita Mexican Market along with collateral of two new freezers and a fryer and subject to receiving proof of payment of two outstanding delinquent debts. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Randy Zinda, to approve a three-month deferral of the Microenterprise Loan Program loan to Re-Cover Temp Agency. MOTION CARRIED.

COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan (COBAL) Program. Connie Schmoll noted the first payments under the COBAL Program started in November and the EDC received its first request for deferment.

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Les Nelson, to approve a three-month deferral of the COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan to Massage Therapy by Rita. MOTION CARRIED.

Schmoll presented information on the loan request by Becky Arvila of Valley View Book and Tax and staff's recommendation. Arvila has been in business 10 years and would use the funds to create office space to allow for social distancing.

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Les Nelson, to recommend to the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission Joint Operations Board that it approve a 24-month \$5,000 loan under the COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan Program to Valley View Book and Tax, with a six-month payment deferral. MOTION CARRIED.

Schmoll presented information on the loan request by Julena Lewison, an independent contractor with Blondies Hair Harbor. Lewison did not apply for the CPR Grant. Following discussion, no action was taken.

Schmoll presented information on the loan request by Luqmaan Mohamud of Mubarak Food & Grocery, Inc. and staff's recommendation. Mohamud has been in business since 2007 and would use the funds for rent, utilities and inventory.

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Zinda, SECONDED BY Les Nelson, to recommend to the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission Joint Operations Board that it approve a 24-month \$5,000 loan under the COVID-19 Business Assistance Loan Program to Mubarak Food & Grocery, Inc. with a six-month payment deferral. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING—The next committee meeting is **12:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2021** via teleconference.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no other business,

IT WAS MOVED BY Kerry Johnson, SECONDED BY Les Nelson, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:47 p.m.