

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
DOING BUSINESS AS KANDIYOHI COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (KCED)
JOINT POWERS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

December 6, 2024

KCED Board Room, Willmar and Via Zoom Video Conference

Present: Julie Asmus, George “Corky” Berg, Vicki Davis, Steve Gardner, Roger Imdieke and Doug Reese

Staff: Patrick O’Rourke, Executive Director

Guest: Nancy Miller, owner of Vinna Human Resources

Media: Jennifer Kotila, West Central Tribune

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

Chair Steve Gardner called the special meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. noting the reason for the special meeting is to potentially go into a closed session for a performance review of the Executive Director Patrick O’Rourke. Gardner read from Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3, stating a public body may close a meeting to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority. At its next open meeting, the public body shall summarize its conclusions regarding the evaluation. Chair Gardner informed O’Rourke that the meeting must be open at the request of the individual who is the subject of the meeting. O’Rourke requested the meeting be closed.

[Jennifer Kotila was excused from the meeting at approximately 1:27 p.m.]

IT WAS MOVED BY Roger Imdieke, SECONDED BY Vicki Davis, to close the meeting. All present voted unanimously in favor by roll call. MOTION CARRIED.

[Kotila rejoined the meeting at approximately 3:17 p.m.]

Chair Gardner ended the closed session and reopened the meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY Julie Asmus, SECONDED BY Doug Reese, to terminate Patrick O’Rourke’s employment with the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission effective immediately with four and one-half months of severance being paid.

IT WAS MOVED BY Roger Imdieke, SECONDED BY Corky Berg, to amend the original motion to negotiate when the additional one and one-half months of severance will be paid. All present voted unanimously in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY Corky Berg, SECONDED BY Roger Imdieke, to amend the amended motion to pay six months of severance pay to Patrick O’Rourke. Roll call vote was taken with Corky Berg, Vicki Davis, Steve Gardner, Roger Imdieke and Doug Reese voting in favor and Julie Asmus voting against. MOTION CARRIED.

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IT WAS MOVED BY Julie Asmus, SECONDED BY Doug Reese, to terminate Patrick O'Rourke's employment with the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission effective immediately with payment of three months severance immediately pursuant to the Employment Agreement and to negotiate with O'Rourke when he would like payment of the three additional months of severance. Roll call vote was taken with Julie Asmus, Corky Berg, Vicki Davis, Steve Gardner and Doug Reese voting in favor and Roger Imdieke voting against. MOTION CARRIED.

The board set a special board meeting for 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 13, 2024 to appoint Joint Operations Board members.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no other business,

IT WAS MOVED BY Julie Asmus, SECONDED BY Vicki Davis, to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:33 p.m.


George "Corky" Berg, Secretary

APPROVED: 1/23/2025:


Steve Gardner, Chairperson