

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

7:00 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Large Conference Room)

PRESENT: JoAnn Hooper, Josh Kasowski, Paige Bjornson, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Bobby Koeppin, Luke Trapp, Dave Carlsud, Mike Bishop, Mary Simonson, Matt Pedersen, Mary Lee Nielson, Dean Kinney, Mike Metcalf, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

ABSENT: Wade Bruns

EX-OFFICIO: Chad Petersen, KLJ; Jeff Bopp, SVACTC; and Josh Johnson, VCPS

President JoAnn Hooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

STREETScape-REQUEST FOR FUNDS: City share was \$545,000; however, bids came in higher so the local share increased to \$609,000. Image enhancement grant can provide \$29,000 or 25% of the fund for the next 3 years, which has already been approved. Using the Image Grant would not allow funds to be used for amenities such as park benches, planters, etc. Consider Food & Beverage Funds for amenities. The City is asking the Development Corporation to approve up to \$35,000. George Gaukler moved to allocate up to \$35,000 of economic development funds for Streetscape project. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

JAIL: Bill Carlblom indicated the committee needs a plan by the end of the year to address jail situation. Three plans have been proposed: 1) current Sheriff's Dept., cost of \$6 M 2) current location, cost of \$11 M, other options may be considered at this location and 3) other proposed locations, cost of \$11 M. The plan sent to the state does not have to be final; multiple options can be presented and location changed. The current jail has 28 beds; planning 44 beds for new jail. Renovations to existing jail could cost between \$3 M-\$3.5 M; but the facility would still not meet requirements. The Courthouse heating system is located in basement of the jail. Discussions regarding the number of beds have taken place with other counties; 3 counties are interested. The Courthouse has no security; concern expressed that integrating the required security and attaching the jail to the Courthouse would degrade the historical quality of the building. What are the plans beyond "cells" and do they include rehab, workforce skills, reentry into the labor force, joint law enforcement center, dispatch, etc.? We have the Vocational Education Program for job training and GED; skills are important. VC Public School would much prefer the jail to not be in the current location across from the school. Using the I94 Regional Dev Corridor would take land away from economic development projects. The jobs created would not count for state funds because the project is government. Sheriff's location is a good site. Did not mention a timeline to implement.

UPDATES: DOT Land Sale-Sold 19 acres-\$750,000 to Love's Travel Ctr. Had 27 acres for sale last time so more land could be available; decreases cost of utilities. Welding Class-Began Monday, Oct. 29th. Ten slots were full but 4 did not show. Have a few on waiting list for next class. Preventice-Recruiters and Brad Kruger were here. Hired 6 people. Preventice plans to hire 5-7 people per month. Laid out marketing plan through Dec. 31st. Funds allocated to project will be used for marketing, recruiting and training. Training through VCSU could include soft skills, computer class and EKG training. Brad wants to build VC and have all positions/business functions here except logistics. Potential to hire 100-200 people. Impressed with employees and want to provide advancement and leadership opportunities to grow the Center. Soft skills are important and adjustments in operations are helping overall business function. We are currently working on a pipeline of candidates; building it by connecting with VCSU, SVACTC, VCPS and others. Funding for projects has transitioned from incentives per job created to funding job training and recruiting. Expect to hear more from VCPS and SVACTC on changes related to career readiness. Eagle Creek-Class scheduled Dec. 5th with potential for Jan. and Feb./March classes; recruiting for Dec. class, goal-8 people/class. Ken is very positive about business going forward.

There being no further business, President JoAnn Hooper adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Jennifer Feist
Director of Development