

Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation Board Meeting

Monday, December 10, 2018

6:45 a.m., Regional Technology Center, 415 Winter Show Road (Large Conference Room)

PRESENT: Josh Kasowski, Paige Bjornson, George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Mary Simonson, Bobby Koeplin, Luke Trapp, Dean Kinney, Matt Pedersen, Mike Bishop, Dave Carlsrud, John Froelich, Jennifer Feist and Alicia Hoffarth

ABSENT: JoAnn Hooper, Wade Bruns and Mary Lee Nielson

EX-OFFICIO: Chad Petersen, KLJ; Paul Diegel, Six D Construction; Josh Johnson, VCPS; and Jeff Bopp, SVACTC

GUESTS: Kristi Brandt, VCPS and Shawn Olauson, Barnes County Commission

Vice President Josh Kasowski called the meeting to order at 6:45 a.m.

AGENDA: Add Barnes County Jail

MINUTES: Mary Simonson moved to approve the November 19th minutes. Bill Carlblom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Dacotah Bank Flex PACE account-\$131,000; received over \$100,000 from Rural Dev. Finance Corp. Unrestricted funds-\$138,000 uncommitted funds. County Funds-returned \$22,000 of unused PACE funds for Great Plains Milling. Roundtable-\$13,000 available for new projects. Tech II-\$102,000, will be repaid for UPS. NW Industrial Park-\$15,800 cash and receivables for November and December. Bobby Koeplin moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Matt Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:55 a.m. Paige Bjornson moved to go into Executive Session. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:10 a.m. Paige Bjornson moved to close the Executive Session. Mary Simonson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

INSPIRE COUNSELING: Mary Simonson moved to approve the request of \$5,000 for Inspire Counseling as a grant funded through the Roundtable Funds. Paige Bjornson seconded. Motion carried. Naye: Bobby Koeplin

VALLEY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENTATION: Working to prepare students to be choice ready, following Governor's Initiative on workforce development. Presented strategic plan/Career Readiness Innovation Matrix. Focus on Career & Tech Education, dual credit, soft skills development, one to one initiative, expand to the point that students could graduate from high school with 24 college credits. Provide certificates from CTE and a jump start for students entering the workforce. Higher education dictates who can teach dual credit. Instructors are required to have a Master's Degree plus 18 credits in specific content area. Dual credit saves students \$2,849 in tuition alone. Bill in 2019 session for scholarships to allow use of funds during high school. Early entry courses, change schedule to provide flexibility for high school students to allow other courses to be taken, work experiences, etc. Provide high school credit for work experience. Need businesses to support this. Students would have something on paper to present to employers. Work experience will have curriculum that helps with soft skills. Ask local experts to help with skill development. Need to address the resistance to change and support the school in their efforts. Eleven teachers need additional training to secure their Masters. Currently, 60% of juniors are taking dual credit classes and 50% of seniors; VCPS offers 7 dual credit classes. Opportunities for those not taking dual credit are through Career & Tech Ed, certificates, CTE dual credit classes such as intro to computers. Ties directly to our workforce development efforts.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Six individuals completed first welding class. One hired so far; second class is full pending receiving applications from individuals who showed interest. One person tested successfully at Malach. Working to secure testing through John Deere. We are looking to use an intern for marketing support through September 30th. Planning two additional welding classes and soft skills training developed by using CTE rubric. Preventice is interested in soft skills, computers, EKG, and medical terminology training. Including incentives for each course. Use Preventice project funds for their training and economic development funds shown in long-term financial planning. TrainND cost is \$145/hour plus travel, our expense is less. Difficult to teach soft skills to adults.

We need to address no-shows and consider limiting students to seniors only. Need to ensure classes are full or not have them (5 or 6 people). Individuals taking the course must sign a statement that they are available for employment. Program will be continuously evaluated to ensure effectiveness. If not, funds will not be directed towards training. Soft skills and computer skills are needed for those who did not receive them when they were younger. Potential to use CTE adult/community education to bridge the skills gap. Need teachers and a CTE computer instructor. Businesses are supporting welding by supplying steel and equipment. Ask businesses to indicate support of the program and potentially help fund. Ties to other things community is doing to entice people to live and work here. Measurables are number of classes, number of students; 12 classes/year, 120 people (100 with fall out). May take longer than a year. Look at how many people take positions in Barnes County. Employee retention should also be considered. Is this where the Corporation should be going? Team building and soft skills are included in all national training curriculum. Workforce training will not be our role forever; we should assist with solving problems, get programs started, meet the need and move on. Incentive helps reduce obstacles for people. May also want to consider methods of preparing instructors for these classes; train the trainer programs. Request includes \$7,500 for student intern, \$54,000 soft skills training, \$52,000 computer training, \$58,000 Preventice (in addition to \$125,000 already allocated), and \$24,500 contingency funds. Training sessions will provide individuals with an opportunity to better themselves and take the next step if they are in a tough spot. Can we get all of this accomplished? Need to market to people who need this. George Gaukler moved to allocate \$250,000 to workforce training as outlined funded from City Sales Tax. Mary Simonson seconded. Naves: Bobby Koeplin and Dean Kinney. Ayes: George Gaukler, Bill Carlblom, Luke Trapp, Mary Simonson, Paige Bjornson, Matt Pedersen, Josh Kasowski, Mike Bishop, Dave Carlsrud and John Froelich. Motion carried.

BARNES COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER: Six counties contract prisoners with Barnes Co. with \$900,000/year transportation cost plus the City's cost. Would sustain the loss of 13 jobs if we don't have a jail. Remodel cost is estimated at \$3.5 Million; the existing layout is not ideal. Potential location of a new facility is an obstacle. Current consensus is to build at current location. John Froelich discussed accessing 2 acres in I94 Corridor to allow enough land for a joint law enforcement center and dispatch plus space for mental health. Structure would be concrete with a modern look. A plan needs to be sent to the State by December 31st. The location could be changed after a plan is submitted. Establish a preliminary site plan for land in I94 Corridor. Takes land away from future development. Would two acres north of National Guard site work, rather than along frontage road? Could Malach property work? Bring back to January meeting or schedule a special board meeting.

NOTE: Bill Carlblom left at 8:30 am.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Snow Removal-Note disagreement with last year's snow removal contractor. ICTC/RTC Generator-FMV of \$9,500, \$800 service agreement. Could come from \$150,000 City funds, may be about \$1,000 short. The size may not be as big as it should be. NOTE: Mary Simonson left at 8:35 am. Paige Bjornson moved to approve purchasing the generator for \$9,500 or less as negotiated by Bobby Koeplin. Matt Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Tech II Fiber-In process. Preventice-Open house Thursday from 4:30-6:30 pm.

There being no further business, Vice President Josh Kasowski adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Feist, Director of Development