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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corp

Full Board Meeting Minutes

3/6/2019

Sidney Health Center

Randy Olson brought the meeting to order at 6:45 AM. Board members present were: Leif Anderson, Craig Averett, Bryce Baker, Jason Brothen, Pam Burman, Tami Christensen, Dave Garland, Bill Henderson, Randy Olson, Mark Rehbein, Blaine Rogers, Gary Schoepp, Alan Seigfreid, Cami Skinner, Brandon Taylor, Heather VanGelder, Katie Dasinger and Leslie Messer. Members absent were: Chip Gifford, Shane Gorder, Walt McNutt, Vanessa Pooch, and Don Steinbeisser.

Tami moved to accept the past minutes, Jason seconded. Approved.

Financial Reports: As we welcomed two new board directors this month, Leslie spent some time going over the basic break down of REDC's books which include the RLF and Sidney Young Professionals. There was an expense for our computer networking this month that was a larger sum. Otherwise, there were no out of the norm expenditures.

Mark moved to approve all financials. Bryce Seconded. Approved.

Welcome: The REDC Board of Directors is excited to welcome the two newest directors, Dave Garland and Brandon Taylor. We are thrilled to have these new voices join our team!

MDU Announcement: Leslie has been keeping in close contact with MDU during this time. We are very sad and concerned to learn of this closure and are doing our best to help in any way we are able. REDC does know that there will be a job loss of 70 people between the Sidney plant and the North Dakota Plant. After converting to only natural gas, there will be a total of 10 people employed between both plants. The other element to this is the impact on the Westmoreland coal mine as MDU and SSI are their only two contracts. Westmoreland currently has 13 employees. Liz Ching with the POWER MT grant will be coming in to town to work with both MDU and Westmoreland. Our office will continue to stay as involved in this transition as possible. Dave reported that SSI has been looking for other coal options for their plant, to offset this challenge.

Shopko Letter: Attached to this packet is a copy of the letter sent to Shopko Corporate. The letter stresses the economic impact Shopko has on our community. Leslie was able to obtain the supporting signatures of Mayor Norby, Mayor Bieber, Chamber President, Laura Schieber and County Commissioner Young. Shopko did respond that the letter would be passed along. While we understand that the letter may not keep the store open, we wanted to make sure that they understood the important role their store plays in Richland County.

Economic Report for the fairgrounds: Leslie was contacted by Commissioner Mitchell to try to assess the economic value of the fairgrounds to determine the return on investment. Leslie worked with Jamie and

many others to compile a report. The final conclusion was that thousands of dollars are raised by having state of the art fairgrounds. Those monies keep the doors open for many clubs and youth programs as well as churches in our community. It was also determined that it is hard, if not impossible, to quantify the investment return on a piece of infrastructure.

Lobbyist Updates: Per the direction of the board, Leslie reached out to raise lobbyist funds. These funds are kept separate from all operational donations and memberships. She was able to reach the established goal.

Income Tax Filed: Our 990 Income taxes were E-filed by Tara Hill at CHMS on 2/13/19.

Leadership MT training for Katie: Leslie presented the cost breakdown for Katie to attend Leadership Montana. The board expressed that having more leadership and professional training for Katie would be beneficial. Leslie pitched the idea of REDC covering part of the cost, seeking scholarships, as well as asking if the Commissioners are willing to cover a portion as well.

Tami made a motion to approve the cost of Katie participating in Leadership MT pending aid from the Commissioners. Heather Seconded. Approved.

RLF Updates: A new CD was put into place this week at 2.4% for 19 months. There has been over \$54,000.00 accrued in interest alone on this loan. We are waiting for the paper work for the 17th loan to come in. There are 7 active loans.

SYP Updates:

- February's event F is for Flavor had a great turn out. We enjoyed partnering with 1035 Brewing to highlight a new area business. SYP has been approached to host this type of event again.
- March 12th will bring in the "So you want to be a board member" training. We are excited to partner with the Montana Non-Profit organization as well as the leadership class at the Chamber for this event! The event is open to the public and will be from 6-8 pm upstairs at Meadowlark Public House
- April will be the State of the State, County, City and Town event.
- SYP has officially submitted their bid to host the 2020 Montana Young Professionals Summit. A copy of the bid was included in the packet and can be emailed to interested parties. MTYP will be announcing the host community no later than 3/31/19.

City Report:

- Held a public meeting on ward maps- there was a misprint in the Herald, Sidney will be staying at 3 wards.
- There has been a lot of calls about frozen water lines
- Still holding on the Holly water project due to issues
- BGCMR is still actively fundraising but hopes to move into their new building during the week of March 18th! Please contact Tami for a tour.

County Report:

- None

Open Discussion:

- Cenex has sold

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 AM

Next Full Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019

Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 26th, 2019