

**WALSH COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Meeting Held at Park River City Office and via Zoom
February 22nd, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Julie Gemmill, Ernie Barta, Jeane Flaten, Diana Hahn, Mary Dvorak, Terri Gorder, Wanda Lee, Lucas Kelley, and Jeff Moen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Lawrence Burianek, Kyle Halvorson, and Matt Beneda.

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Chally and Ashley Bezuidenholt, Busy Buddies Childcare

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

CALL TO ORDER: Gemmill called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes from the January 19th, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Barta made a motion to approve the minutes. Flaten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: French added continuing education under new business.

BILLS: Expenses incurred since the last meeting were presented for approval. Flaten made a motion to approve the bills. Gorder seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried. Checks 5181 through 5207 were approved by the Board. Expenses and deposits from January 20th, 2022 through February 22nd, 2022 are attached.

REQUESTS FOR FUNDS

BUSY BUDDIES CHILDCARE: Amy Chally and Ashley Bezuidenholt were present to ask for a \$30,000 direct loan to purchase the Sunshine Kids daycare facility in Park River. This daycare was previously run by a nonprofit and recently closed. Chally and Bezuidenholt both had previously worked at the daycare. They plan to be co-directors of the daycare and ND requires daycare directors to work 60% of the time at the daycare, which Chally and Bezuidenholt plan to split between the two of them while maintaining their current full-time jobs. Neither is planning on leaving their full-time position.

Chally and Bezuidenholt plan on the daycare having a more educational base with a play and learn environment. They also want to focus on infants since childcare in that age group is really lacking. Currently, Park River has 8 home-based daycares, with one cutting down hours resulting with five families losing their daycare. All the home daycares are maxed out at the legal limit.

Chally and Bezuidenholt have said that all their licensing is complete and have worked with the ND Small Business Administration on setting up their business plan. They plan to create two businesses, ABC Properties which will own the property and Busy Buddies which will contain the daycare.

The total cost of the property is \$25,000 which includes everything within the property. Chally and Bezuidenholt also requested an additional \$5,000 for operating expenses and are committing \$5,000 of personal capital. They plan on apply for grants to allow for more updating.

Busy Buddies Childcare plans on employing 3-4 employees along with Chally and Bezuidenholt. The business would be open from 7 AM to 6 PM, 5 days a week and open during early outs and holidays. They will only offer full-time contracts (5 day), no part time.

Motioned by Hahn to give a \$30,000 loan, 0%, 0 payments for 6 months after the business opens, at which point the board will re-evaluate the loan. Seconded by Barta, after roll count vote, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

GOLDEN VALLEY VET: Loan signing was completed on February 10, 2022 for a total loan amount of \$24,548.06 from the JDA at 3% interest for 5 years beginning on March 10, 2032.

OPEN BOARD MEMBER POSITION: Lee motioned to recommend to the County Commissioners for Dvorak to the open board member position. Seconded by Kelley, all voted yes, motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

SPENDING LIMIT: Currently there is no spending limit set for purchases that do not require approval from the board. After discussion Flaten motioned a \$1,000 per purchase limit that would not require board approval. Seconded by Kelley, all voted yes, motion passes.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: The National Development Council offers a 4-course certification program for Economic Development Finance. French would like to take these classes to increase her education. Gorder motioned to approve the first class in the series with a cost of \$1,575. Hahn seconded the motion, all voted yes, motion passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Lee made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Reported by,

Signed,

Angelle French
Director

Julie Gemmill
Chair