

## **Winnebago County Industrial Development Board**

### **Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2021 Meeting**

**Winnebago County Administrative Building, 112 Otter Ave., Oshkosh, WI**

**\*Meeting held virtually via Zoom and Phone-in\***

Board Members Present: Rob Keller, George Dearborn, Shiloh Ramos, Mark Harris, Mary Anne Mueller, Bob Warnke, Linda Kutchenriter, Joel Rasmussen, Morris Cox

Board Members Excused: Elizabeth Hartman, Mary Krueger

Others Present: Jerry Bougie, Jason White, Tricia Rathermel, Art Rathjen, Bob Schmeichel, Ellen Skerke, Paul Sundquist, Amy Albright, Allen Davis, Rob Kleman, Stephanie Hawkins, Don Merkes, Joe Stephenson

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Chair Rob Kelle

1. Approval of minutes from December 17, 2020 IDB meeting. Mary Anne Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes, Morris Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.
2. Update on Winnebago County Covid-19 Rapid Response Loan program for small businesses – GO-EDC. The Board agreed to move this item up on the agenda. Art Rathjen from GO-EDC provided the Board with an update on this program. He reported that to date 36 loans have been issued totaling \$343,000.00, with some businesses requesting loan deferments. Art indicated that some of the early loan recipients may request additional deferments beyond the 6-month extension. By community, there were 1 loan issued in the City of Appleton, 5 in the City of Menasha, 16 in the City of Neenah, 1 loan in Nekimi, 2 in the City of Omro, 9 in the City of Oshkosh and 2 loans issued in the Village of Winneconne.
3. Board review and action on 2021 Per Capita Economic Development Funding applications. Jerry Bougie gave a brief overview of the program and allocations for 2021. For 2021, the allocations are based on \$1.1165 per capita for each community and the funding is used to help offset local economic development expenditures.

City of Menasha. The City is requesting \$16,340 in funding. Joe Stephenson gave a report on Menasha's application for funding. Discussion pursued. George Dearborn

made a motion to approve the \$16,340 in funding for Menasha. Morris Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

City of Neenah. The City is requesting \$29,401 in funding. Jerry Bougie indicated that the City had a conflict in scheduling and could not be present to report on their application today. After discussion, the Board agreed to act on the City's funding request at today's meeting. Shiloh Ramos made a motion to approve the City of Neenah's funding request in the amount of \$29,401. George Dearborn seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

City of Omro. The City is requesting \$5,802 in funding, with the Town of Rushford contributing their funds to the City. Stephanie Hawkins gave a report on Omro's application. Discussion pursued. Mark Harris made a motion to approve the \$5,802 in funding for the City of Omro. Motion seconded by Joel Rasmussen. Motion approved 8-0, with Linda Kutchenriter abstaining.

Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation (GO-EDC). GO-EDC is requesting \$89,540.00, with contributions from the City of Oshkosh and the Towns of Algoma, Black Wolf, Nekimi, Nepeuskun, Utica, Vinland and Winneconne. Jason White gave a report on GO-EDC's application. Discussion pursued. Shiloh Ramos made a motion to approve the \$89,540 in funding for GO-EDC. Motion seconded by Mark Harris. Motion passed 9-0.

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is requesting \$5,269 in funding with contributions from the Towns of Algoma and Oshkosh. Rob Kleman gave a report on the Chamber's application. Discussion pursued. Shiloh Ramos made a motion to approve the \$5,269 in funding for the Oshkosh Chamber. Motion seconded by Linda Kutchenriter. Motion passed 9-0.

Town of Clayton. The Town is requesting \$4,681 in funding. No one from the Town was present to report on their application. After discussion, the Board agreed to act on the application at today's meeting. Linda Kutchenriter made a motion to approve the \$4,681 in funding for the Town of Clayton. Motion seconded by Mary Anne Mueller. Motion passed 9-0.

Town of Neenah. The Town is requesting \$4,055 in funding. Bob Schmeichel and Ellen Skerke gave a report on the Town's application. Discussion pursued. Shiloh Ramos

made a motion to approve the \$4,055 in funding for the Town of Neenah. Motion seconded by Mark Harris. Motion passed 9-0.

Village of Fox Crossing. The Village is requesting \$21,314 in funding. George Dearborn gave a report on Fox Crossing's application. Discussion pursued. Morris Cox made a motion to approve the \$21,314 in funding for the Village of Fox Crossing. Motion seconded by Mark Harris. Motion passed 8-0 with George Dearborn abstaining.

Village of Winneconne. The Village is requesting \$6,160 in funding with contributions from the Towns of Winchester and Wolf River. No one from the Village was present to report on their application. After discussion, the Board agreed to act on the application at today's meeting. Shiloh Ramos made a motion to approve the \$6,160 in funding for the Village of Winneconne. Motion seconded by Mary Anne Mueller. Motion passed 9-0.

US Internet. US Internet is requesting \$5,438 in funding with contributions from the Towns of Omro, Poygan and Winneconne. Jerry Bougie indicated that these contributions represent financial matching commitments made by the affected Towns to US Internet as part of the grant applications for the Light the Lake rural broadband project in Winnebago County. He reported that the Board was in general consensus at its last meeting to allow this use of the per capita funding allocations for this purpose for 2021. Discussion pursued. Mary Anne Mueller made a motion to approve the \$5,438 in funding for US Internet. Motion seconded by Shiloh Ramos. Motion passed 9-0.

Board member Linda Kutchenriter left the meeting.

East Central International, Trade, Business & Economic Development Council (ITBEC).

The East Central ITBEC is requesting \$11,000 in funding which represents Winnebago County's annual membership in this regional multi-county organization. Paul Sundquist gave a report on the ITBEC's application. Discussion pursued. Mark Harris made a motion to approve the \$11,000 in funding for the East Central ITBEC. Motion seconded by Shiloh Ramos. Motion approved 8-0.

Oshkosh Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The Convention Bureau is requesting \$10,000 in funding. Amy Albright gave a report on the CVB's application. Discussion pursued. Mark Harris made a motion to approve the \$10,000 in funding for the Oshkosh CVB. Motion seconded by Morris Cox. Motion passed 8-0.

Jerry Bougie reported that the Board just approved a total of \$209,000 in funding for local economic development projects and programs for 2021.

4. Update on GO-EDC's USDA Rural Business Development Grant application.

Tricia Rathermel provided the Board with an update on the application with USDA. She said the proposed revolving loan program is designed as a permanent program that would benefit small businesses in rural Winnebago County for years to come. She indicated the application is due at the end of March and that the IDB had approved a \$75,000 matching commitment at its December meeting which is contingent upon approval of the grant application by USDA. Jerry Bougie indicated the \$75,000 matching commitment will come from the transfer of funds from the COVID-19 rapid response loan program pursuant to Board action at its last meeting. Mark Harris asked about the benefit of the financial matching commitment. Tricia indicated that the matching commitment provides for a better scored application and makes the application much more attractive to reviewers at USDA for potential approval.

5. Adjournment. Joel Rasmussen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Morris Cox. Motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Submitted by,

Jerry Bougie, Recording Secretary