

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

July 28, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by President Etzler at 5:06 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at the Staples City Hall Council Chambers with one attendee participating via zoom. Present were President Etzler and Commissioners Rice-zoom, Johnson, Bendson and Case. With Commissioners Tappe and Gertken marked as absent. Also present were Executive Director Melissa Radermacher, City Administrator Jerel Nelsen, and Staples World, Mark Anderson.

Minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Bendson and seconded by Case to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote was taken, Bendson-yes, Johnson-yes, Case-yes, Rice-yes, Etzler-yes. None voted no. Carried.

Radermacher shared an update on Covid-19 Business Response Efforts. The emergency response group continues to meet weekly to discuss best practices in response to the needs of the businesses and partner on special projects and resource guides for the Todd and Wadena County businesses. The Chamber and SEDA continue to partner to conduct Coffee Talks via zoom for the community every Wednesday to share pertinent information with the community. The SMACF continues to grant dollars to assist small businesses and nonprofits that have been affected by the Governors Executive Orders. To date there has been \$15,558 from 52 unique donations raised, \$23,864.25 awarded to 16 applicants, with the additional funding came from the Staples Motley Area Community Foundation Endowed Fund.

Radermacher shared an update on the Cares Act economic development relief grants for both Todd and Wadena counties. Radermacher is on both counties economic development committees that is forming the guidelines and reviewing applications. Both counties are considering \$5,000 grants to small businesses with priority being given to those that were forced to close or significantly reduce operations due to the Governor's executive orders. The City is meeting later in the week to identify usage of the funds the City received.

Radermacher shared an update on the 2020 Paint the Town program. Two homes have been approved by the committee, the initial site visit has been completed, painting will take place in in late August or September and the committee will be supplying PPE to volunteers.

Radermacher shared an update on the Child Care project. The funds have been disbursed to child care providers at the end of June. The final grant report has been submitted however, Radermacher continues to participate in the Wadena County RCCIP program.

The Welcoming Communities group continues to meet, there have been two projects identified on how to make systemic change in regards to how the community is welcoming to newcomers. The group will meet again later this week.

Radermacher shared an update of the Batcher Block bonding project. The board is meeting two times a month one longer meeting and shorter check-in meeting. The board is working through the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to get setup as a nonprofit. The group is also exploring a partnership with organizations that specialize in fundraising. There was no bonding bill passed at the special session, still working to be considered in the next special session in August.

Radermacher shared a variety of updates in regards to businesses, Discover Staples and Chamber. The CVN group will meet virtually in August, she will be participating in that session.

A motion by Case, seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 pm. Roll call vote was taken, Roll call vote was taken, Bendson-yes, Johnson-yes, Case-yes, Rice-yes, Etzler-yes. None voted no. Carried.

Melissa Radermacher, Secretary