

September 15, 2015

Seward Economic Development Program - LB 840 Application Review Board
September 15, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.
Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 142 North 7th Street, Seward, Nebraska

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., with the following members present: Patricia Coldiron, Patricia Johnson, Ellen Beck, John Owens, Jessica Kolterman; Absent: Ann Underwood, Barbara Pike. Also in attendance were: Mayor Joshua Eickmeier, City Administrator Bruce Smith, Interim Chamber Executive Director Kathy Evert, Tobin Beck, and Deputy Clerk/Finance Director/Assistant Treasurer Marilyn D. Varner recording minutes.

1. DESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN

David Kumm, former Chairman, has resigned from the Board.

Ellen Beck was designated as the new Chairman in a motion by Coldiron, seconded by Owens.

Aye: Owens, Beck, Kolterman, Johnson, Coldiron
Nay: None
Absent: Pike, Underwood. Motion carried.

2. JANUARY 15, 2015 MINUTES

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Kolterman, to approve the January 15, 2015 minutes.

Aye: Coldiron, Owens, Beck, Kolterman, Johnson
Nay: None
Absent: Pike, Underwood. Motion carried.

3. FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Financial Reports from January 1 through August 31, 2015 were reviewed. All funding requests from the past have now been paid.

A motion was made by Owens, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Financial Reports.

Aye: Beck, Kolterman, Johnson, Coldiron, Owens
Nay: None
Absent: Pike, Underwood. Motion carried.

4. SEWARD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPLICATION FOR FUNDING - \$18,300.00 FOR INTERIM CHAMBER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The application for funding received from the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce, 616 Bradford Street, for partial funding of \$18,300.00 for Interim Chamber Executive Director was reviewed.

Coldiron (previously employed by the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce) explained that the Chamber Board of Directors have discussed a method of going forward, expressing that a Chamber should be about community. They felt the best way to accomplish this was to hire a consultant to acquire knowledge and expertise in several areas concerning multiple entities. The goal is to have the multiple entities (Seward Area Development Corp., Seward County Visitors Bureau, Seward County Economic Development, Seward Arts Council, Seward County Housing Corp., etc.) work together for the good of the surrounding areas. An interim director has been hired to explore more efficient ways to conduct business.

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Johnson inquired about funding sources for the interim Chamber Director. Coldiron explained that a small reserve exists to handle unplanned expenditures. The LB 840 funding application was submitted as a possible source of partial funding for the interim director.

Several members inquired as to whether or not the application is an appropriate use of LB 840 funds. In the past, funds have been approved for the Chamber, but Mayor Eickmeier explained that the City has budgeted general funds to help with some funding for the Chamber. Discussion was also held about allowable expenses according to LB 840 guidelines. Administrative costs are allowed, but it was felt that these costs should possibly relate to economic development projects, rather than Chamber costs. The Mayor explained that this Board has struggled in the past over distribution of funds (grants, loans, etc.) The Board has tried not to do too many of one type of activity and to develop consistency in their actions.

Mayor Eickmeier explained that he contacted Frank Daley, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Division, regarding the Board's participation in the Chamber as it relates to voting on LB 840 issues. He explained that if an LB 840 Board member is also on the Chamber Board of Directors, they would need to abstain from voting on Chamber issues before the Board, but if they were just a Chamber member, voting was allowed.

Coldiron explained that approximately 65 percent of businesses join Chambers of Commerce. These members pay dues for the entire community, with the thought that chambers are "economic development". She felt that LB 840 funds could be used for different types of administrative fees.

Past funding projects were reviewed for the benefit of new member Kolterman.

Owens expressed that he was in favor of what the chamber is trying to accomplish, but agreed that economic development funds should not be used for this purpose. Johnson felt that the funding request from the Chamber was not "nuts and bolts", but rather visionary and did not want to spend economic development funds for this purpose.

Beck asked Coldiron if any other funding avenues might be available, to which Coldiron replied that to their knowledge, no other funding resources were available.

Moved by Coldiron to approve the funding request from the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce, 616 Bradford Street, for partial funding of \$18,300.00 for interim Chamber Executive Director. The motion died for lack of a second.

No further action was taken on the application.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. in a motion by Johnson, seconded by Kolterman. All members present voted aye.