

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 @ 5:30 P.M.
Arlington Community Center - Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - A. August 7, 2017
5. Approval of Financial Reports
 - A. July 2017
 - B. August 2017
6. New Business
 - A. Presentation by Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation – Jennifer Nelson, Vice President - Development and David Krueger, Board Member
 - B. Presentation by Amy Newsom, Sibley County Community Development Program Manager – Sibley County Rural Child Care Innovation Program
7. Old Business
 - A. Sibley Housing Team Update
 - B. 2017 Goals
8. Board Announcements
9. Adjourn

A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL MAY BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING. NO OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL SHALL OCCUR AT THIS MEETING
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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 @ 5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Dean Bergersen at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Council Member Michelle Battcher, Councilmember Tom Hatlestad, Richard Thomes, and President Dean Bergersen.

Members Absent: Larry Sorenson, Angelica Rose, and Tim Kloeckl.

Also Present: Director Holly Kreft; Sibley County Community Development Program Manager, Amy Newsom; SMIF Development Vice President; Jennifer Nelson; and SMIF Board Member; David Krueger.

Motion by Battcher, seconded by Hatlestad and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Hatlestad and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2017 meeting as presented.

Motion by President Bergersen, seconded by Hatlestad and passed by unanimous vote to approve the July and August 2017 Financial Reports as presented.

Jennifer Nelson, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Development Vice President, and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Board Member, David Krueger, gave an update on SMIF and its activities for this year. Nelson gave an introduction about how long SMIF has been around and what they do. SMIF has been around for 31 years, and SMIF has three main focus areas: 1) Economy 2) Early Childhood and 3) Community Vitality. Nelson further explained SMIF's two new projects, the REV program and Small Towns Grant. She noted that Sibley County has applied for the REV program and that the City of Arlington has applied for their Small Towns Grant.

Amy Newsom, Sibley County Community Development Program Manager, gave a Presentation on the Sibley County Rural Child Care Innovation Program. Sibley County was awarded a grant from First Children's Finance, a facilitator, to help address the childcare shortage within Sibley County. Newsom explained that the City of Arlington has the largest daycare shortage in Sibley County, being short 134 childcare slots. Newsom is meeting with EDAs across the County to educate them about the need for childcare in our area. Ms. Newsom met with an investor a few weeks ago about possibly creating a learning center (childcare center) within Arlington. However, financially for him to purchase a building and put a center in would not be ideal. Newsom is hoping the EDA will brainstorm ideas for incentives the EDA could offer a potential buyer for buying a building in Arlington and turning it in to a daycare. Right now First Children's Finance and Sibley County have multiple surveys out throughout the County. One is for parents in Sibley County, one is for current and past providers, and one for anyone else in the community. Their goal is to try to collect information from all groups to see if they have any insight as to how to solve the issue on the childcare shortage in our area. There was much discussion on the childcare shortage. Ms. Newsom invited the EDA to the Town Hall Meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on November 16, 2017 at the Arlington Community Center. At this Town Hall Meeting they will go over the survey results and discuss how to address the shortage.

Director Kreft provided an update on the Workforce Housing Team (WHT). At the last WHT meeting it was discussed that there is interest from Gaylord, Winthrop, and Gibbon in joining with Arlington for a potential joint housing study. They have decided to move forward along with potentially adding the City

of New Auburn. The WHT decided to move ahead with getting new proposals for a Comprehensive Housing Study. It will then come back to the EDA and the City Council for approval before moving forward. Director Kreft also contacted AgStar about the grant the County had received for this study, and they agreed that this group would qualify for the grant. Discussion was had on what Arlington's portion of the study would look like. Kreft explained that the study would include a chapter specifically for each city with two scenarios. One with the potential medical school and one without the medical school.

Director Kreft provided an update on 2017 EDA goals. Director Kreft has been in contact with Dave Lucas from Scott Equipment about hosting a Manufacturer's Week in October. Scott Equipment has historically, in the past, partnered with the High School to host students throughout the month of October. Director Kreft also reached out to Leah Prahl from the Chamber to see if they would want to partner with a manufacturers week event.

Discussion was had on the status of the former Seneca site, Director Kreft explained that Northland Drying is moving forward and getting close to their closing date.

Discussion was had on the Pilot Travel Center DEF plant, Councilmember Hatlestad mentioned that he saw rail cars going in and out. Director Kreft said she is working with the owner and the Chamber to host a ribbon cutting ceremony, either at the end of September or early October.

Discussion was had on the first day of school and how the construction was going there.

Director Kreft gave a notice of resignation to the EDA. Her contract goes through the end of December, she will maintain her duties through then.

Motion by Thomes, seconded by Battcher, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

EDA Director Holly Kreft

EDA President Dean Bergersen