

## **Winnebago County Industrial Development Board**

**February 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Winnebago County Administrative Building,**

**112 Otter Ave., Room 119, Oshkosh WI**

**\*Meeting held in person and on Zoom**

Board Members Present: Rob Keller, George Dearborn, Mary Krueger, Tom Eagan, Jon Doemel, Morris Cox, Mary Anne Mueller, Andy Buck, Elizabeth Hartman

Board Members Excused: Bryan Stafford, Nate Gustafson

Others Present: Tricia Rathermel, Art Rathjen, Sam Schroeder, Chris Haese, David Porter, Doug Nelson, Paul Sundquist, Amy Albright, Colan Trembl, Ellen Skerke, Brian Noe, Victoria Kinderman, Jerry Bougie, Adam Dorn

Meeting called to order at 10 am by Board Chair Rob Keller.

### 1. Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2022 meeting.

A motion was made by Morris Cox to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Tom Eagan. Motion passed 9-0.

### 2. Board review and action on 2023 local economic development funding applications.

Board Chair Rob Keller summarized the Mission Statement and Policies for the Winnebago County IDB's Per Capita Funding Program. He indicated that the Board should keep these policies in mind as they review the funding applications at today's meeting. Chair Keller requested Jerry Bougie to report on the funding allocations for 2023.

Mr. Bougie indicated the per capita funding allocations were set at 90 cents per capita for 2023, a reduction from \$1.11 per capita in 2022, pursuant to the budgeted allocation approved in the 2023 County Board budget which totaled \$172,542 for 2023. The following funding applications were presented and discussed by the Board:

City of Menasha. The City is requesting \$13,722 in funding. Sam Schroeder gave a report on Menasha's application for funding. Discussion pursued. George Dearborn made a motion to approve the \$16,408 in funding for Menasha. Morris Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

City of Neenah. The City is requesting \$24,953 in funding. Chris Haese gave a report on Neenah's application for funding. Discussion pursued. Mary Anne Mueller made a motion to approve the \$24,953 in funding for the City of Neenah. Morris Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 9-0.

City of Omro. Jerry Bougie indicated the City of Omro is not represented at the meeting today due to unforeseen circumstances. Tom Eagan made a motion to table the application until the next meeting to allow Omro the opportunity to discuss its application. Motion seconded by Morris Cox. Motion passed 9-0.

Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation (GO-EDC). GO-EDC is requesting \$81,407 in funding, with contributions from the City of Oshkosh and the Towns of Algoma, Black Wolf, Nekimi, Nepeuskun, Oshkosh (portion), Poygan, Rushford (portion), Utica, Vinland, Winchester and Winneconne. Tricia Rathermel gave a report on GO-EDC's application. Discussion pursued. Jon Doemel made a motion to approve the \$81,407 in funding for GO-EDC. Motion seconded by Mary Krueger. Motion passed 9-0.

Mary Anne Mueller left the meeting at this point.

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is requesting \$1,102 in funding from the half contribution from the Town of Oshkosh. Colan Treml gave a report on the Chamber's application. Discussion pursued. Morris Cox made a motion to approve the \$1,397 in funding for the Oshkosh Chamber. Motion seconded by Mary Krueger. Motion passed 8-0.

Town of Clayton. The Town is requesting \$3,938 in funding. Jerry Bougie indicated that the Town has recently decided to allocate their funding to the Fox Cities Chamber Regional Partnership for 2023. Discussion pursued. Jon Doemel made a motion to table the allocation to allow the Fox Cities Partnership to discuss at the next meeting how they would intend to use the funding from Clayton. Motion seconded by Morris Cox. Motion passed 8-0.

Town of Neenah. The Town is requesting \$3,331 in funding. Ellen Skerke gave a report on the Town's application. Discussion pursued. The Board felt the request for funding didn't meet the Funding Program's policy related to item #2 regarding a viable economic development program. Morris Cox made a motion to table the application to allow the Town to decide what community or economic development entity it wanted to allocate their funding to for 2023. Motion seconded by Tom Eagan. Motion passed 8-0.

Town of Omro. The Town is requesting \$2,120 in funding. Brian Noe gave a report on the Town's application. Discussion pursued. The Board felt the request for funding didn't meet the Funding Program's policy related to item #2 regarding a viable economic development program. Jon Doemel made a motion to table the application to allow the Town to decide what community or economic development entity it wanted to allocate their funding to for 2023. Motion seconded by Andy Buck. Motion passed 8-0.

Village of Fox Crossing. The Village is requesting \$17,110 in funding. George Dearborn gave a report on Fox Crossing's application. Discussion pursued. Morris Cox made a motion to approve the \$17,110 in funding for the Village of Fox Crossing. Motion seconded by Andy Buck. Motion passed 7-0 with George Dearborn abstaining.

Village of Winneconne. The Village is requesting \$2,288 in funding. David Porter gave a report on the Village's application. Discussion pursued. George Dearborn made a motion to approve the \$2,288 in funding for the Village of Winneconne. Motion seconded by Tom Eagan. Motion passed 8-0.

East Central International, Trade, Business & Economic Development Council (ITBEC). The East Central ITBEC allocation for 2023 is \$9,273. Jerry Bougie indicated that the allocation is for Winnebago County's annual membership for this regional multi-county organization. Paul Sundquist gave a report on the ITBEC's application. He indicated that the annual County membership dues for the ITBEC is \$11,000 and therefore the \$9,273 allocation isn't enough to cover the membership dues for 2023 and requested the IDB to fund it to the \$11,000 amount. Discussion pursued. Jon Doemel made a motion to amend the request for the ITBEC to \$11,000 with the difference of \$1,727 to be transferred from the IDB reserves to cover the shortfall. Motion seconded by Mary Krueger. Motion passed 8-0.

Oshkosh Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The Convention Bureau allocation for 2023 is \$9273. Amy Albright gave a report on the Oshkosh CVB's application. Discussion pursued. Jon Doemel made a motion to amend the funding request to \$15,000 with the difference of \$5,727 to be transferred from the IDB reserves to cover the shortfall. Tom Eagan seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Discussion pursued. Some Board members had a concern that the Board is selectively choosing one organization or community over another. The general consensus of the Board was that further discussion on how the Board funds economic development projects for communities/organizations in the future requires more in-depth discussion at an upcoming meeting. Jon Doemel decided to withdraw his motion and Tom Eagan

withdrew his second. Andy Buck made a motion to approve the \$9,273 in funding for the Oshkosh CVB. Motion seconded by Jon Doemel. Motion passed 8-0.

Board Chair Rob Keller indicated that the Board will review the policies for the Per Capita Economic Development Funding program at an upcoming meeting to address the issues brought up at today's meeting.

3. Next Meeting. Jerry Bougie said the Board will be contacted regarding time and date options for the next meeting which will likely occur in April.

4. Adjournment. Morris Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Andy Buck. Motion passed 8-0. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Submitted by,

Jerry Bougie, Recording Secretary