

MINUTES  
KIOWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2015

PRESENT: Mike Lening, Kelly Courkamp, Jimmy Brown, Donald Oswald, Dennis Pearson and Jan Richards. Board members Jerry Weber and Sean Lening were absent. Guest present was Cindy McCloud.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM with the above parties present. Minutes of the December 29, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were made: during the meeting the possible purchase of a new computer for Jan was discussed; and the Board agreed by consensus that it was a top priority to pursue "base businesses", such as an auto mechanic, electrician, plumber etc. Donald Oswald moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kelly Courkamp and passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Jan noted KCEDF was owed approximately \$60,000 that will be added to the coffers. Membership renewals will also add funds. Kelly Courkamp moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Oswald and passed unanimously.

Jan provided a written Coordinator's Report for review. Discussion followed. Jan noted she was still working toward a new business in Towner. Plans call for there to be a Feasibility Study completed before the agriculture-based business can proceed. Jan would like to continue working with SBDC and their grant writer to apply for a grant from the USDA that would help to pay to complete the study. The Board agreed, by consensus, to permit KCEDF to apply for the USDA grant knowing that if the funds are received, KCEDF would administer the grant and funds would run through KCEDF accordingly..

Discussion was then held regarding KCEDF possibly providing some limited financial support to the Town of Eads for operation of the Eads Swimming pool, which loses a great deal of money each summer due to the age of the pool and increased operating costs. The sentiment of the Board was to possibly provide financial assistance with the matching funds that would be needed to apply for a grant to replace the pool. Oswald moved to provide some financial support to a potential grant request by the Town of Eads, but to also consider at a future date some limited financial assistance with operating costs of the pool. The motion was seconded by Brown and passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the 2015 KCEDF budget. It was noted the cost of re-seeding to grass a portion of KCEDF land should be included in the budget. There was also concern expressed regarding future funding of KCEDF.

The Board opted to go into Executive Session at 7:20 PM to discuss Jan's compensation for 2015, which needs to be included in the 2015 budget. Jan and Cindy McCloud left the meeting. The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:55 PM. Jan and Cindy returned to the meeting

Oswald moved to leave Jan's wage and compensation package the same as it was during 2014. The motion was seconded by Brown and passed unanimously.

Kelly Courkamp then moved to approve the budget as discussed. The motion was seconded by Brown and passed unanimously.

The Annual Meeting was discussed. The date for the meeting was set for March 30, 2015 in the meeting room in the basement of the courthouse. Possible themes for the meeting were discussed and it was determined the theme for this year would be 'gardening'.

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, the Board needs to decide upon a 'Business of the Year'. Jan provided a list of all businesses in Kiowa County and a list of past winners. Brown stated he believed smaller businesses in the county needed to be recognized at some point as well as larger ones. Discussion followed. It was decided Jan would send out an email asking all Board members to provide their top three (3) choices for Business of the Year and a final vote would be taken from the top three (3) vote-getters at the February meeting.

The 2015 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Kiowa County and KCEDF was reviewed. It was noted the agreement is virtually the same as that for 2014. Kelly Courkamp moved to approve the MOA. The motion was seconded by Brown and passed unanimously.

Discussion was then held regarding the efforts Jan had made trying to keep K&M Restaurant from closing prior to a new owner taking over in May. The effort included Jan personally paying SE Colorado Power \$361.69 out of her personal funds and Salvation Army paying \$700 in order to keep the power on. Even though the power was paid and will be left on, the effort to keep the restaurant open for business did not succeed and the restaurant will be closing within the next few days. Jan reported SECED will pay the utility bills until the new owner takes over in order to keep the building from being damaged by frozen pipes.

Mike Lening moved to have KCEDF repay Jan the \$361.69 she paid from her personal funds in order to keep the electricity on in the restaurant. Oswald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jan reported she has also begun working with an individual who is interested in opening a combination auto repair/appliance repair shop in Eads.

There were no specialized reports from the Agriculture, Housing or Resource Committees.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 17, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the KCEDF office. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.