

**Minutes**  
**FPDC Board of Directors**  
**Tuesday, September 29, 2020**  
**Municipal League Conference Room**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order at 11:35**– Vice President, Lyle Magorien

**Board Members Present:**

- Larry Cronin
- Gerad Johnson
- Lyle Magorien
- Emily Steber
- Becci Scott
- Scott Deal

**Board Members Absent:**

- Dr. Michelle Hofer (unexcused)
- Shad Ludemann (excused)
- Daniel Hoey (excused)

**Others Present:**

- Mayor Gloria Hanson
- Rick Hahn
- Mike Weisgram
- Roxanne Heezen
- Todd Bernhard
- Dave Bonde
- Sunny Hannum

**Review of August 31, 2020 Financials**

Dave has been in contact with JKB's parole officer. No payments have been received this year. Dave has inquired of Courtney whether drinking water and trash are being charged to "Office Supplies" or "Utilities."

The Revolving Loan Fund Balance is at \$69,468.70. Use of the fund will be discussed under "New Business."

A motion was made by Gerad and seconded by Scott to accept the review of the financials. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Review & Approval of August 25, 2020 Board Minutes**

Motion made to approve the August 25 minutes by Larry and seconded by Gerad. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Reports:**

- **City of Fort Pierre** – Mayor Hanson & Staff  
Roxanne reported that sales tax was up 8.23% in July year-to-date. July alone was up 9.29%. BBB tax was down 9.39% year-to-date and only up 3.0% for July. Occupancy tax is down 11.16% year-to-date and .98% in July. Overall, April and May were the worst months.

The 2020 Budget had been approved with revenues kept at the same level to match expectations. The Utility fund budget will be done later. The office has been processing covid relief funds with law enforcement to receive the largest amount of about \$200,000. Ambulance services will claim share with the county for 60%. Gloria said Roxanne had developed a personnel policy for covid that she was willing to share with other businesses.

Gloria is participating in a video produced by the Pierre Area Chamber titled “Shop Small” to encourage everyone to shop small. Her radio interview tomorrow will include Shane Kramme to talk about the horse races. The ash tree inventory is nearly complete to control of the Emerald Ash Borer. Mike Huether, former Sioux Falls Mayor, interviewed Pat Duffy for Keloland TV’s “On The Road” program. It will air October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m (last Tuesday).

Rick reported that the Mni Wiconi water leak had been repaired but the line is failing so additional breaks are expected. Street repairs for winter are underway. The Verendrye Museum punch list is being prepared for final review before the museum is turned back over to the Verendrye Board to put displays back in place.

Vacation homes (or VRBO’s) have become an issue in Fort Pierre which has become a resort area. Because they are in residential areas, a conditional use permit will require them to operate under state laws. The City is drafting an ordinance(s) to assist with the issue. Additional sales and occupancy tax will be a result.

Lagoon improvement review plans are being prepared for the DNR to meet deadline.

– **Stanley County Fairgrounds** – Scott Deal

Scott reported that the horse races will be there this weekend but they have done their own preparation to get the track ready. He has a wedding reception October 10 and then will begin putting a calendar together for next year. Right now he has two Indian Relay Race groups vying for dates.

He was very impressed with the 4H Finals that they were able to get 24 events done in 3 ½ hours for 5 performances. He said the “Big News” is that the South Dakota High School Finals is planning to stay in Fort Pierre through 2023. The group had met and confirmed dates last night.

– **Fort Pierre Tourism** – Mike Weisgram

Mike said the group exists to promote Fort Pierre’s history, recreation, sporting events and natural resources thereby increasing revenues to the businesses in the area. He said he concurred with Roxanne’s figures but had also looked at the August figures which were down \$500 from last year. However, the trajectory is looking stable.

The Tourism group had reduced grants this year and their Executive Director’s salary in anticipation of revenue decreases but had still managed to implement “Summer Nights” downtown for 3 weeks of late July and August and Trader Days in August. The recap of Trader Days showed a break even scenario thanks to sponsor participation. Attendance was modest with the 4H group not really adding much to numbers.

Tourism is promoting the horse races through social media and have committed to supporting the new Missouri River Bridge plaza for the next 3 years. They are involved in strategic planning right now and are participating in the Pedestrian Bridge Lighting Project by banking the funds in the Future Fort Pierre account and he is acting as Treasurer.

Gloria added that the Sculpture Committee, formed during the Bicentennial, is meeting on a regular basis and are focusing on the new bridge plaza. Sculptures are being planned to represent history, buffalo and Commander John Waldron. A John Lopez buffalo sculpture is being considered.

– **Fort Pierre Recreation Association** – Todd Bernhard

Todd reported that they had been focusing on capital projects and due to a donation were able to complete the scoreboard for the ball park near the school and get it hooked up and operational for the 2021 season.

– **Board Committees:**

Dave said all the committees are meeting on a quarterly basis except downtown which is meeting monthly.

- **Housing:**

Plans are to re-evaluate and update the 2012 housing study as soon as the Census information comes out in 2021.

Rick said that the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trailer Park has received legal notification and plans are to clear that area for multi-family dwellings. The Wagon Wheel trailer park on Bad River Road has an interested buyer.

- **Business Development & Retention:**

The committee will be looking at how RLF money can be used to assist our business community. The small business grants provided by GOED will required businesses to prove 25% loss due to covid this year compared to last year.

- **Education & Community Partnership:**

Right now Fort Pierre's school is shut down but will open up October 1<sup>st</sup>. They are prepared to take it day by day. There may be an effect on sporting events.

- **Downtown Development Committee:**

The Downtown group was able to get a small budget for 2021. Their focus has been to improve the appearance of downtown and last month's meeting had included a presentation by Art Smith of East Pierre Landscaping. Art provided 3 quotes for hanging flower baskets on downtown street lamps.

Sunny said much could be done to improve the look of downtown like cleaning up empty lots, overgrown trees, and broken board fences but beautification is also a goal.

The proposals were for 27 light posts and prices ranged from \$10-\$14,000. The Downtown Committee decided they might have to start small like only the intersection lamp posts. The group had also discussed a date for the Christmas Tree Lighting Event. The Committee will meet this Thursday at 8 a.m. at Magpie's.

## **New Business:**

### **1. Revolving Loan Fund Activation:**

Dave is looking for ideas of how to use the RLF to help businesses by combining a loan with a bank loan at low interest with the first payment delayed for a year. There is currently \$69,000 in the RLF and an additional amount of \$85,000 in a USDA grant to supplement RLF.

Lyle suggested that Dave find out how combining the two loans would work and send an email to businesses explaining the opportunity. This will be a topic of discussion for the Business Resources Committee at their October 6 meeting.

### **2. Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event:**

Dave said that a discussion at Executive Committee meeting to omit the chili cook off due to the complications of using the Community Center and combining the tree lighting with the pedestrian bridge lighting. The other activities would still take place like wagon rides, caroling, and the Dakota Cruiser. He asked for a motion by the board to proceed with the plans for the Christmas Tree Lighting on November 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday after Thanksgiving.

A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Gerad to proceed with the outdoor activities only for the Annual Christmas Tree lighting. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **3. Stanley the Buffalo:**

Dave added this item due to Larry's request. Larry reported on the sad condition of Stanley, the fiberglass buffalo next to the Log Cabin. The buffalo was placed there May 21, 1997 after the local fiberglass shop created him to replace a bronze buffalo on loan from the University of Colorado. Stanley County High School students had raised the money for the buffalo.

Gloria suggested that a quote be obtained to see if it was feasible to repair the buffalo. Sunny said she had already been trying to contact Russell Hansen who had repaired the Casey Tibbs spinner. She will continue to pursue getting him to look at Stanley.

Sunny had inquired of Daniel Hoey and Shirley Swanson in June whether the students might be interested in raising money to repair Stanley and is waiting for Shirley to discuss it with the SCHS Student Council. Dave and Larry will also continue to negotiate with the school and Education Committee about the project.

#### **Old Business:**

None

#### **Updates:**

##### **– U.S. Beef Producers:**

Dave had met with Kim Ulmer, Dr. Oedekoven, Kyle Peters and board members for Animal Industry Board and US Beef last week. The meeting was rough and the outcome was that Ulmer needed to complete his paperwork to get certified. Right now the plant is custom slaughter only and "the ball is in Ullmer's court."

##### **– Pedestrian Bridge Lighting:**

To date \$60,000 in pledges and donations have been received. Rick said materials are ordered but companies are backlogged on materials. The electrician has begun conduit work and has received his contract from the City.

##### **– Kubota Dealership:**

Floyd's are receiving inventory and working with Morris to rent the building across the street. They are needing mechanics, managers and sales people.

##### **– Ribbon Cuttings:**

- CHALK Pre School will have a ribbon cutting early October
- Overhead Door is still pending

##### **– Remaining Scheduled Events for the Year:**

Sunny referred to the Calendar: Horse Races (October 3&4); Homecoming Week (October 5-9); Celebrate South Dakota Heroes (October 16); Election Day (November 3<sup>rd</sup>); Annual Casey Tibbs Banquet (November 7); and Annual Christmas Tree Lighting (November 27<sup>th</sup>).

#### **Other:**

- Larry: Thank you to Dave and team for the bridge lighting fundraising.
- Mike: Legislative meetings he has been to have been helpful. Some people falling through cracks with covid funding. Affordable housing and workforce key areas needing help.
- Dave: River Bluff has a house similar to Governors houses. Couple of Governor's houses in Pierre and one in Marion's Garden
- Scott: Would like to insulate the grandstand so it could be used year round for events.
- Emily: Great patio weather so they have been able to stay outside but will go to full occupancy inside. Marina supposed to be in full operation by May 2021. Getting last minute bookings and fewer cancellations.
- Rick: Missouri River Bridge project \$50 million bid accepted from Des Moines firm (Jensen)
- Gerad: Working on waterlines. Weather has been agreeable. New office not quite done due to materials hold up. Projected completion April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Larry made a motion to adjourn and Gerad seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Downtown Development Committee – Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8 a.m. at Magpies
- Business Resources Committee – Tuesday, October 6 @ 4 p.m., Log Cabin
- FPDC Executive Committee – Tuesday, October 20 @ 11 a.m., Log Cabin
- FPDC Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 27 @ 11:30 a.m., Municipal League