

**NORTHEAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. – NED, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 – 7 P.M.**

*City of Columbus Community Building  
2500 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Community Room A, Columbus, NE 68601*

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order:** The Northeast Economic Development, Inc. (NED, Inc.) Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by NED, Inc. President Rich Jablonski who informed the public about the location of the Open Meetings Act LB 898 and that it was accessible to the public.

**II. Roll Call:** NENEDD Administrative Assistant, Mary Fleer, read the roll call.

**Board Members Present:**

Rich Jablonski, President

Loren Kucera, Secretary/Treasurer, Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC)-Wayne

Jim McCarville, Northeast Community College

Tod William Voss, MD, City of McLean

**Board Members Absent:**

Kurt Dostal, Vice President, Citizens State Bank

Jim Hans, Village of Wynot

Sally Ganem, Fremont City Council

**NENEDD Board Members Present:**

Charlie Bahr, Columbus City Council; Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, West Point Chamber of Commerce; Troy Uhlir, Madison County Commissioner; Loren Kucera, Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC), Wayne; Meghann Buresh, Nebraska Apex Accelerator; and Benjamin Benton, City of Randolph.

**NENEDD Staff Present:**

Shannon Stuchlik, Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr., Tina M. Engelbart, Jeff Christensen, Mandy Gear, Andrea Larson, Grace Petersen, Martin Griffith, Mary Fleer.

**III. Introduction of Guests:** K. C. Belitz, Director of Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

**IV. Secretary's Report**

**A. Consideration for approval of the November 29, 2023, meeting agenda and October 25, 2023, and October 30, 2023, meeting minutes.** Jim McCarville made a motion to accept the November 29, 2023, meeting agenda and the October 25, 2023, and October 30, 2023, meeting minutes. Tod W. Voss seconded the motion. **AYES:** Loren Kucera, Jim McCarville, Tod W. Voss. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Kurt Dostal, Sally Ganem, Jim Hans. Motion carried.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Consideration for acceptance of the October 2023, Treasurer's Report as presented.**

NENEDD Executive Director, Shannon Stuchlik, presented the report. Loren Kucera made a motion to accept the October 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. Jim McCarville seconded the

motion. **AYES:** Jim McCarville, Tod W. Voss, Loren Kucera. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Kurt Dostal, Sally Ganem, Jim Hans. Motion carried.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Presentation of the Northeast Economic Development, Inc., audit.** Board members were given a copy of the NED, Inc. audit. BrenDee Reinke from Herley & Reinke Accounting, P.C., (via phone) explained the auditor's report. There will be an action item at the December 2023 board meeting to accept the audit.

**VII. Action Items**

**A. Consideration for approval of the General Corporate Resolution as presented.** Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr., will resign as Executive Director on December 15, 2023. Tina M. Engelbart will resign as Deputy Director on December 1, 2023. Shannon Stuchlik began employment on October 30, 2023, as Executive Director and Martin Griffith was hired as Deputy Director on November 21, 2023. Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr., asked that the current officers serve another term from July 2024 to June 2025. Loren Kucera made a motion to approve the General Corporate Resolution as presented. Jim McCarville seconded the motion. **AYES:** Tod W. Voss, Loren Kucera, Jim McCarville. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Kurt Dostal, Sally Ganem, Jim Hans. Motion carried.

**B. Consideration for approval for Direct Homebuyer Assistance applicant #101787 in the amount of \$29,000.** NENEDD Housing Loan Specialist, Mandy Gear, presented. NENEDD staff have reviewed the application and are recommending approval for direct homebuyer assistance in the amount of \$29,000 for applicant #101787. This is a 0% Deferred Interest Loan, due upon transfer of title. Jim McCarville made a motion to approve Direct Homebuyer Assistance applicant #101787. Loren Kucera seconded the motion. **AYES:** Loren Kucera, Jim McCarville, Tod W. Voss. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Kurt Dostal, Sally Ganem, Jim Hans. Motion carried.

**VIII. Executive Session (None.)**

**IX. President/Board Comments:** Board President, Rich Jablonski, thanked everyone for coming to Columbus and touring the City of Columbus Community Building.

**X. Next Meeting Date:** The next NED, Inc. Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held via conference call.

**IX: Adjournment:** Loren Kucera made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tod W. Voss seconded the motion. **AYES:** Jim McCarville, Tod W. Voss, Loren Kucera. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Kurt Dostal, Sally Ganem, Jim Hans. Motion carried. President Rich Jablonski adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.