

**CITY OF TIOGA**  
Tioga Fund Advisory Board Minutes  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018  
Unofficial

A meeting of the Tioga Fund Advisory Board of the City of Tioga was called to order at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at the Tioga City Hall, by President of the Tioga Fund Advisory Board, David Grubb.

PRESENT: David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

ABSENT:

Guest: Wayne Knutson, Andrea Keever, Jodeen Bergstrom, Randi Raan, and Chris Norgaard

**Minutes:**

- 1.) October 25, 2018 minutes

Discussion regarding a clerical error in the minutes with incorrect board member name.

Rosencrans made a motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2018 with corrections, second by Papineau.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

**Reports:**

- 2.) Tioga Fund Balance

Papineau made a motion to approve the balance sheet, second by Freborg.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

**New Business:**

- 3.) Application for the Tioga Rec Council Volleyball equipment

Keever gave a presentation for the need for updated volleyball equipment. The current equipment is over 20 years old and very heavy and explained the types of equipment needed. The final quote came in slightly lower at \$2737.60 and asked to amend the application for that final cost. Discussions Held.

Rosencrans made a motion to approve the application from the Recreation Fund in the amount needed of \$2737.60, second by Papineau.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

- 4.) Application for the Tioga Rec Council for stadium chairs

Keever gave a presentation for the Recreation Council program to provide a service for better seats for games. The seat will also have the Recreation Council's logo on the seats to get recognition for them. Application does not include freight.

Freborg made a motion to approve the application from the Recreation Fund for up to \$2000.00, second by Pederson.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

5.) Application for Tioga Rec Council for 2019 Operating Expenses.

Keever asked to withdraw the application until the Rec Council Secretary is available to explain their budget and funds.

6.) Application for Tioga Area EDC for Continuation of Community Development Consultant

Norgaard explained the application for the EDC's request for \$50,000.00 for contracting and consultant fees for the Community Development Consultant for another year. Norgaard explained Lindahl's role as a consultant, coordinating some day to day tasks, awards he has won on a state level, Drone Camp and to help keep Tioga "on the map". Grubb asked what Lindahl's role has been with EDC and the new community center. Norgaard Explained Lindahl has done some marketing, worked with the architects, set up meetings for public input, and has attended nearly every building committee meeting with input. Grubb also asked if the EDC board support rehiring. Norgaard said yes. Jodeen Bergstrom stated as a landowner in the city she questions what is being done as she is sitting with an empty building and having empty building on both sides of her building and the opportunity of selling her building is minimal, with not a lot of people wanting to do business in Tioga and she is questioning if this role is bringing tax-based dollars into the state. Bergstrom stated the first year of Drone Camp she noticed about 20 people in her restaurant and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year only had 1 person that waited at her restaurant the whole day for drone camp to get done, explaining the Drone Camp wasn't dollars being brought into her business. Bergstrom stated she has spoken with other business owner and they don't feel like they are receiving the economic development as well. Grubb asked for some examples. Bergstrom stated new businesses in town have never been reached out to and there is a lot of people that don't know there is an EDC. Bergstrom explained she searched Tioga online and couldn't find the EDC's website and "we're" paying this money and nothing shows up on the search engine optimization. And Tioga is not being advertised out there. Norgaard stated there is an EDC website. Norgaard also explained Bergstrom attended the EDC's meeting and other members at the meeting tried looking it up and those members found the EDC website. He also explained how they had someone go into business and take pictures of businesses for the EDC, so the website can have a link to those business websites. Discussion continued. Bergstrom stated "as an owner of land in Tioga ND, she would like to have more options because 1-she doesn't have a business because there is not enough people in the city, 2-she cannot sell the business because there's not people wanting to come into town and that's a problem." Discussion continued. She asked the Tioga Fund board to re-evaluate what that money is being spent for. Grubb asked what her suggestion for change from the EDC or even the City would be for herself. Bergstrom started explaining how 82% of sales are purchased online, and told Norgaard if his "google guy" did this, he should get his money back. Bergstrom continued discussion on websites and search engine optimizations. Grubb stated the conversation is going beyond the scope of what this Advisory Board is for, and that the board is there to act on an application for specific reasons. Bergstrom interrupted she just wants the board to question the money the EDC is asking for and she doesn't feel this is bring true tax dollars back. Discussion continued. Bergstrom stated business owners are trying to keep their own businesses open and it is the EDC's job to do the out search and pull these people and opportunities in. Discussion continued. Grubb stated he respects her comments and he needs to bring the meeting back to the application and ask the members to focus their attention on the application to act on. The Advisory Board is to act on applications presented for funding, make sound recommendations to the commission and be good stewards of the tax dollars that flow into the Tioga Fund. Knutson asked who makes the application if it's Dennis or the EDC. Grubb stated it is the EDC. Knutson did express some concerns with Lindahl's professional conduct during a commission meeting. Discussion continued regarding that specific meeting. Bergstrom also expressed concerns regarding Lindahl speaking negatively on Tioga being "Oil Capital of North Dakota." Discussions continued. Freborg ask who oversees the position. Norgaard stated the EDC board. Knutson asked if anyone on the Tioga Fund Board also sits on the EDC board. Grubb stated he does but will be abstaining from the vote, but he does believe we need someone representing our community. Pederson asked about the list of services bulleted on the application such as Drone camp, Tech camp, Point of Contact for Micro-Retail and UAS Drone Coordinator, and Renaissance Zone. Chris stated it is a list of services Lindahl does but also includes additional things not on the list. Pederson also asked for clarification if the EDC is contracting Lindahl or Dakota Public Relations. Norgaard stated Dakota Public Relations and Lindahl is the Primary Point of Contact and Project Manager. Grubb asked if there were any other questions for comments. Rosencrans stated the application is for the EDC and it's the EDC job to pick somebody.

Rosencrans made a motion to approve the application for \$50,000.00 from Economic Development Fund second by Freborg.

Call: Aye- Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

David Grubb abstained from vote

7.) Application for Tioga Area EDC for Operating Expenses for 2019

Norgaard explained what the operating expenses are used for, such as an office, supplies, filing taxes, training and travel, trade shows and discussed awards. Bergstrom questioned if the Community Development Consultant is charging \$50,000.00, why is he charging more to go to these events. Norgaard explained the EDC has control of the money and they don't give him the money until it's needed for these events to keep accountability over the money and expenses. Discussion held regarding consultant fees and operating expenses to include travel. Papineau explained the Tioga Fund has help the EDC with operating expenses for years as the EDC's only source of income is membership dues and the EDC doesn't have any other revenues or tax levies, they receive being why the Tioga Fund has always helped with these added expenses.

Pederson made a motion to approve the application for \$10,000.00 from the Economic Development Fund. Second by Papineau.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

8.) Application for the Tioga Chamber of Commerce for Operating Expenses for 2019

Grubb stated this application is another similar application for assistance with operating expenses for 2019. The Tioga Fund has supported for a number of years and with no one from the Chamber available to present the application, Grubb asked for comments questions or a motion. Bergstrom stated she is sad to hear the Chamber only has 20 members and when she was in it there was about 80. Grubb stated that is unfortunate but he still thinks the Chamber plays a vital role in the community, serving a purpose, and that the Chamber needs to be supported as well as their only income is the membership dues. Papineau agreed stating they can run just off the dues.

Freborg made a motion to approve the application for \$10,000.00 from the Economic Development Fund. Second by Rosencrans.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson

Nay- None

9.) Application for City of Tioga for Recreation Equipment in the Community Center

Grubb stated he was hoping to see someone from the City as he has some questions regarding the application, asking Pederson if she can answer any questions as she is a City employee. Pederson stated the Auditor wasn't available for the Tioga Fund Meeting but would be available by phone if needed. Grubb stated one of his questions is for the electric basketball hoops and if the cost is for one or both hoops. Pederson explained the cost was estimated for both hoops and includes an estimation for the install totaling \$17,800.00. estimated. Pederson also explained the Architects help with the quotes and where it came from also that the Auditor looked into a company the Recreation Council has used for the Volleyball equipment and that freight costs are not included on anything. Grubb stated that this is an important part of finishing the Community Center and the totals on the equipment exceeds the amount asked. Norgaard stated the goal for the Community Center was to build as big of a structure as able and fill it up over time rather than build a small building full of equipment. Discussion held regarding private donations and community center, such as lighting, hockey rink, etc. Keever asked how the City is picking out the equipment. Pederson explained she received quotes from the Architect and also looked at several companies that the Recreation council had previously used, the equipment is rough estimates since

there had not been enough time to gather all the estimates before the Tioga Fund meeting. Keever stated her concerns would be to ensure we are getting the appropriate equipment and quality equipment. Discussion continued regarding scoreboards. Pederson stated the application is heavily estimated and that the Auditor main goal was to get some information in to the Tioga Fund in hopes of approval so the City could start the process for looking into and getting recreation equipment for the Community Center. Discussion continued.

Papineau made a motion to Table the application to get more information presented.

Rosencrans stated we should get something started this year though. Discussion continued between multiple people at once. Bergstrom asked a question and Grubb replied the Tioga Fund can act on an application and that does not preclude the applicant from reapplying for additional funds if needed. Rosencrans stated again he would like to get something approved now before the end of the year for the community center, and if more is needed, they can come back with another application. Papineau made a statement, Bergstrom is talking over member (unable to hear), Freborg immediately responded to Papineau (unable to hear) as Bergstrom is still talking over. Papineau's motions dies due to lack of second. Discussions continue regarding community center and options for reaching out to members of Recreation Council if needed regarding equipment and quality. Bergstrom is still talking over members while motion is being made.

Rosencrans made a motion to approve application up to \$38,000.00 from Recreation Fund to City to start getting needed equipment for Community Center before end of year and can come back if more money is needed with recommendation to consult Recreation council if needed for equipment. Second by Freborg.

Call: Aye- David Grubb, Russ Papineau, Myles Rosencrans, Don Freborg and Ronica Pederson  
Nay- None

10.) Letter from City of Tioga regarding City Commission regarding Boards and Committees

David explained that the City Commission is moving away from being liaisons and are now Points of Contact for boards.

With no further business, the meeting of the Tioga Fund Advisory Board was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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David Grubb, President of the Tioga Fund Advisory Board

ATTEST:

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Ronica Pederson, Deputy Auditor