

Manufacturer's Round Table

November 8, 2017

Location: City of Dickinson City Hall

Meeting Record

Present: Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority; Doug Sullivan, Dickinson Public Schools; Deborah Dragseth, Dickinson State University; John Wieglanda, Heart River A&D; Shirley Meyer, Senator Heitkamp; Reed Reyman, CHI – St Alexius Health Dickinson; Mary Urlacher, Job Service North Dakota; Shirley Dukart, Home and Land Company; Shawn Kessel, City of Dickinson; Guy Moos, Baker Boy; Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation; and Danita Tysver, Stark Development Corporation.

Business – Go – Round:

Shirley Meyer, Senator Heitkamp – Working on tax reform and Small Businesses Role in the Regulatory Process. (see attached handout)

Reed Reyman, CHI – St Alexius Health Dickinson – Revenue is up this year and expenses are down. Volumes are down except for babies. Baby projections still trending upward. Have 290 full-time employees and 380 total employees. Have 16 openings, three primary openings. CHI offered 12 employees early retirement, their last day will be December 8th. Six employees received an opportunity to receive their associate degree in bioethics for free. Clinic billing will be back in house in January. The OB department received the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Distinction award. ER visits increased 7-10% from last year.

Mary Urlacher, Job Service North Dakota – Stark County has 639 job openings. The region has 746 job openings. Have been seeing a steady flow of traffic. Have funds for training opportunities. Also have funds available for apprenticeship programs. If interested in apprenticeship opportunities for your business contact Mary Urlacher. (see attached handout)

Shirley Dukart, Home and Land Company – Housing prices have increased due to demand. House sales have increased in smaller communities in Dunn County. Currently have 78 realtors in the area. (see attached handout)

Discussion took place about the rental vacancy rates.

Shawn Kessel, City of Dickinson – Hosted the Energy Development and Transmission Committee Conference in Dickinson. Many representatives relayed the message Dickinson has done things right. Also hosted the Western Dakota Energy Association in Dickinson. Jan Murtha has been hired as the new City Attorney. The City Commission has selected three goals to complete over the next five years. They are city sales tax increase designated for safety organizations, downtown vitality and connecting paths and sidewalks throughout the community. Committees were formed for each goal, contact Shawn Kessel if you are interested in serving on a committee. The City of Dickinson now

has an app called Dickinson Works. They will be starting a recycling program in house and plan to start in three months. The City will start offering tuition assistance to employees in 2018. (see attached handout)

Doug Sullivan, Dickinson Public Schools – As of November 3,380 students are in enrolled in the district. That is 255 more students than projected. Enrollment is going to continue to increase. The high school may be over 1,000 students next year. The middle school opened with over 800 kids. The district has purchased 114 acres for future growth. Have had a series of public forums regarding future growth in the district. Will be hosting focus groups next week. If interested in attending a focus group contact Doug Sullivan.

Debora Dragseth, DSU – Governor Doug Burgum is forming a task force to assess the existing governance structure for higher education in North Dakota. The task force will consist of 15 members. Individuals interested in serving on the task force can apply online. The Bank of North Dakota holds \$1.1 billion in student loans. North Dakota has the lowest default rate and lowest interest rates.

Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority – The Governor reinstated the Little Missouri River Commission. Members of the state water commission have attended Southwest Water Authority meetings. They are working on the Long X Bridge. Water usage is down this time of year. Finishing the water treatment facility, should be completed April 2018. Pouring walls for the raw water reservoir, should be completed next year. Started on the residuals handling facility. Have over 470 rural customers waiting for water.

Guy Moos, Baker Boy – Doing great, sales are good and efficiencies are up. Purchased new mixers from Italy. Will be able to mix 1,000 pounds of cookie dough at a time. The holiday season is going great. Will be upgrading the spiral freezers. Purchased a machine that injects the ring of donuts and can inject two flavors at a time. Will be the only company in the US using the technology. Should be producing the donuts in April 2018. Recently was approved for two PACE loans equaling \$5 million for new equipment.

Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation – The 3 Day Startup weekend was a success, had 18 registered. Have a new logo, working on a marketing plan. Recently launched a community enhancement program, suitable projects may be eligible for a matching forgivable loan of project funds up to a maximum of \$25,000. The programs will be utilized throughout the County. Last meeting was busy. Had three PACE loan applications and three community enhancement program applications and 2016 audit report. Approved all PACE loans and one community enhancement program, tabled one and denied the other community enhancement program due to qualifications to the program. OIT is moving forward and will be on the planning and zoning meeting next Tuesday. An Australian company which builds skids to clean and reuse water was recently in the area showcasing their product.

John Wieglanda, Heart River A&D – Studies show in 2020 mental health and substance abuse will be the leading health issue in America. Looking to get more involved in the community to help create awareness in the programs available. Support to help

individuals needs to come from the top down within companies. Looking to work together to create more recovery events, many individuals with problems do not want to be in the limelight.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 2:30 PM, at Dickinson Middle School.