

GRPB Executive Committee

Rural Fast Track Review

April 3, 2020

8:00 a.m.

The Governor’s Rural Partnership Board (GRPB) Executive Committee is charged with review and recommendation of Rural Fast Track (RFT) Grant Applications. The RFT review meeting is scheduled monthly to receive recommendations of endorsement or detail of RFT applications. The applications are then sent to the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) Board for final approval.

In Attendance: Steve Styler (“SS”), Brian Higginbotham (“BH”), Michael McCandless (“MM”)

Regrets: Stephen Lisonbee

GOED Staff: James Dixon (“JD”)

Other Attendees:

Minutes: Joshua Wiggins

Minutes

1. Review of Minutes from March 6, 2020
   1. **MOTION: Approve the Minutes from March 6, 2020.**
      1. Motion to approve: MM
      2. Second: BH
      3. Decision: 3-0-1
      4. Motion PASSED.
2. RFT Endorsements/Denials
   1. Sierra Restoration, LLC: Smithfield, Cache County
      1. Rural Fast Track for Sierra Restoration, LLC, located in Smithfield, Cache County, for the purpose of constructing a new building with bays to clean damaged property. The company expects to create two (2) new full-time positions paying at least 110% of the county average wage. The total project cost is valued at Four hundred fifty thousand dollars ($450,000).
      2. BH: This business is down the street from my house and is well respected. I don’t have any concerns with this application. Do I have a perceived conflict of interest? I don’t know anyone at the business.
      3. JD: No, I don’t think there’s any conflict here.
      4. **MOTION: Endorse a Rural Fast Track Grant for the company in the amount of $50,000.**
         1. Motion to approve: BH
         2. Second: MM
         3. Decision: 3-0-1.
         4. Motion PASSED.
   2. All Electric Plus, Inc.: Paragonah, Iron County
      1. Rural Fast Track for All Electric Plus, Inc., located in Paragonah, Iron County, for the purpose of purchasing a new shop/storage building. The company expects to create one (1) new full-time position paying at least 110% of the county average wage. The total project cost is valued at Three hundred sixty thousand dollars ($360,000).
      2. JD: The company is looking to buy a building in Paragonah to expand their warehouse, shop, and storage space. Because there isn’t a business district in the city, the business would buy the residential building and modifying it for their needs.
      3. BH: Are there any zoning restrictions?
      4. JD: I did not call the city. I could if you’d like. The explanation was that the type of zoning doesn’t exist or is pretty moderate around the area.
      5. BH: I want that to be confirmed.
      6. JD: I can ask the city.
      7. SS: Tell me about the job: how does a storage facility generate a new job?
      8. JD: In this case, it is more than a warehouse; it includes an actual shop. They need shop space to assemble and disassemble electric motors. They need storage space for spare parts.
      9. SS. Okay.
      10. **MOTION: Endorse a Rural Fast Track Grant for the company in the amount of $50,000 subject to verification of zoning and proper placement of shop.**
          1. Motion to approve: SS
          2. Second: BH
          3. Decision: 3-0-1.
          4. Motion PASSED.
   3. Loa Builders Supply: Loa, Wayne County
      1. Rural Fast Track for Loa Builders Supply, located in Loa, Wayne County, for the purpose of purchasing an open-cell high pressure foam machine. The company expects to create one (1) new full-time position paying at least 110% of the county average wage. The total project cost is valued at Seventy three thousand dollars ($73,000).
      2. JD: This company found a niche in the drywall and installation business in the area. Do they really need this grant? They have a significant level of profit, but the program has no mechanism to deny an applicant for profit. This machine will allow the company to apply insulation by spray faster and thicker. It will require two new employees, with one acting as the machine operator.
      3. MM: I know this business well. They do a great job. They’ve been solid as long as I’ve known them.
      4. **MOTION: Endorse a Rural Fast Track Grant for the company in the amount of $36,500.**
         1. Motion to approve: BH
         2. Second: MM
         3. Decision: 3-0-1.
         4. Motion PASSED.
   4. Mountain West Logistics, LLC: Nephi, Juab County
      1. Rural Fast Track for Mountain West Logistics, LLC, located in Nephi, Juab County, for the purpose of purchasing window bucks and a saw to enable renting and servicing of window bucks. The company expects to create one (1) new full-time position paying at least 110% of the county average wage. The total project cost is valued at One hundred twenty thousand dollars ($120,000).
      2. JD: This application wasn’t quite ready last meeting. They put in a pre-application a year ago. We gave them permission to go through to the full application prior to the finalization of our new form. I had to go back and ask them some more questions, which took an extra month. This company is in the equipment rental business. One of the things they do is rent equipment and service window bucks. There are several sizes they want to purchase to rent out. They also want to buy a saw.
      3. BH: The saw was for cutting the bucks into customizable sizes.
      4. JD: The new job comes from installing the bucks, pulling them out, cleaning them, and transporting them.
      5. BH: My concern is about the saw. Once the bucks are cut, they’re cut, right?
      6. MM: There’s two parts to the bucks. One portion is cut and left in place, and the other portion is support. My expectation is that the job isn’t 100% involved with the bucks, but I don’t have a problem with that.
      7. **MOTION: Endorse a Rural Fast Track Grant for the company in the amount of $50,000.**
         1. Motion to approve: MM
         2. Second: BH
         3. Decision: 3-0-1.
         4. Motion PASSED.
3. Other Discussion
   1. SS: Where do we stand on funds?
   2. JD: We had three months where we had no applications, so I think the rush we’re experiencing here will make up the difference from what we didn’t allocate. I don’t anticipate that we’ll go beyond what we typically do, unless there’s a significant rush.
   3. JD: We’re also allowing for BEAR sub-grants to help counties address some needs during this pandemic.
   4. JD: I will also check back about the zoning question.
4. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 AM.