

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 p.m. Present for the meeting were President Jim LaBarbara, Vice-President Tom James, Secretary Tom Weidman, Treasurer Rob Porter, Executive Director Ray Warrick, and Tracy Kellums.

### **Reviewing the Status of Grants:**

Mr. Weidman stated he wanted to discuss the CIC Grant Program for Sycamore Township residents who work in one of the JEDZ Districts. He stated Sycamore Township residents who have had JEDZ tax withheld from their income may apply for grants to have that money refunded to them with proof of residency. He noted at the inception of the CIC, there was discussion that the Township would adopt the partner municipalities tax codes for each JEDZ as it relates to refunds. Mr. Weidman stated all three partner municipalities have a three-year limit for refunds and that is also a statutory limit. He said he understands that the CIC is not a JEDZ and does not fall within that parameter.

Mr. Weidman reported there have been residents who applied for grants for taxes paid more than three years prior to the application year in the past. He stated those residents were told they cannot do that. He said recently two residents wanted grants issued for JEDZ taxes withheld six and seven years ago. Mr. Weidman reported Mr. Warrick, after a conversation with Mr. Desai, instructed Ms. Campbell to pay the grants to those two residents. Mr. Weidman said he finds this troubling. He said he had a conversation with Mr. Desai, and he understands the original CIC resolution says any and not three years. He said the original needs to be amended immediately and noted the 2022 Grant Program resolution was already amended to include a three-year limit.

Mr. Weidman said the issue is that no one in this building has the unilateral authority to pay the grant checks for those requests that were outside the usual parameters; it should have gone before the CIC Board. He said, unfortunately Mr. Desai is not here to address this, but he is troubled by the fact that Mr. Desai felt he had authority to do this without the CIC Board's approval. Mr. Weidman stated he, as a member of the CIC Board and Board of Trustees, did not know this was happening. He stated he found out about it when he went in to sign checks and found a 2021 grant application with 2021 scratched out and 2017 written in its place. He stated this issue should be addressed by the CIC Board.

Mr. James stated Mr. Desai said he spoke to Mr. Weidman last evening after he found out the special meeting had been scheduled and told him he had a conflict and asked him to reschedule this meeting.

Mr. Weidman said Mr. Desai told him he had a conflict but did not ask him to reschedule.

Mr. James said it is troubling that Mr. Weidman did not know about the grant payments. He said the grants are not governed by tax codes because they are not refunds; they are grants. Mr. James

stated he has researched CIC resolutions and minutes and cannot find a record that the Board ever approved a time limit for applying for the grants. He reported there was a discussion about time limits in the April 21, 2016 minutes in which there was a motion to approve a time limit with former Law Director Doug Miller saying there would be a document prepared for formal adoption at the next meeting. Mr. James noted the formal adoption of the time limits never happened because that is not mentioned in the following meeting's minutes.

Mr. James stated the resolutions establishing the grant program each year did not include a time limit. He stated the resolutions did state that the CIC Executive Director had authority to set the procedures for grant applications but from what he understands the applications never established a time limit either.

Mr. James said he agrees with Mr. Weidman there needs to be a time limit and we have now set one. He stated all future grant applications would be funded by the 2022 grant program, so it is now and moving forward that we need to attend to this.

Mr. Weidman said he spoke to Mr. Desai about possibly amending the original grant resolution and he thought it was a good idea. Mr. Weidman said he is not disagreeing with Mr. James but the process here is bad. He said he wanted to bring this out in the open because transparency is important.

Mr. James said Mr. Weidman suggested someone had deviated from procedures the Board had put in place, and actually the procedures were unclear, and we are fixing that moving forward.

Mr. Weidman said the Board should also clarify who has authority and who does not have authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board, noting the decision to pay the grants should not have been done unilaterally.

Mr. James said we also had a grant program that guaranteed a refund for those who apply.

Mr. Weidman stated it is a discrepancy in the policy that should come before the Board.

Mr. James agreed but stated if someone were denied the grant money and sued us, he thinks the Township would have lost.

Mr. James asked if there was any action to take noting the Board needs to hear from Mr. Desai. He said he had a discussion with Mr. Desai about putting the time limit in the 2022 grant program resolution passed December 7, 2021.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if the Board will pay the grant money for those in question.

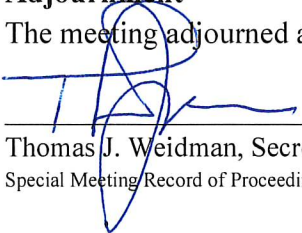
Mr. Weidman said there was one check and yes, we have to sign the check. He said he thinks the other two people were already paid.

Mr. Warrick said two people had been paid and the check in question is for one of those two people.

Mr. LaBarbara made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Weidman. All voted yes.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



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Thomas J. Weidman, Secretary  
Special Meeting Record of Proceedings 12/09/2021