

## SC JDA Questions

**What is the JDA?** It is The Sargent County “Job Development Authority”

**When was it formed?** On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000 the SC Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to create a job development authority for the county. The ND Century code 11-11.1-02 and 11-11.1-03 provide the power to do so.

**Who are the current members of the JDA and how are they selected?**

As per state law, there are certain entities that need to be represented on this board and other entities are optional representation. The Century code states that not fewer than ten nor more than twenty members must be appointed. All members are appointed by the Commission. The commission seek interest or potential appointments by individual requests of consideration or by a specific entity making a recommendation to the board. Example the city of Milnor may appoint someone from their council for the commission to consider to be on that board to represent Milnor city. There must be two members from the commission, one member from the city council of each city within the county which has a population of 500 or more. One member selected from among the city governments of the remaining cities in the county with populations under 500. Since all 24 townships in the county are organized two members from the township governments of the organized twps. The remaining members must be selected from a list of candidates from the following fields-local job service office in nearest county seat; local airport authority; local institution of higher education; school boards; local industrial development org; regional planning council; legislative assembly; members at large. The Current Board is as follows: Mike Walstead and Bill Anderson commissioners; Sandra Hanson(secretary/treas) & Robert Ptacek-township supervisors; Al Colemer, Terry Dusek (vice chr), Jessica Peterson-Cities with populations over 500. Ron Narum-cities with population under 500. Carol Peterson, Mark Bopp (Chr), Jerry Erickson, Randy Pearson, members at large.

**How often does the JDA meet?** Quarterly or as needed upon request by a board member or by someone interested in Seeking the JDA Assistance or seeking information.

**How is the JDA funded?** The JDA can collect a maximum of 4.0 mills from the county property. If there are cities within the county that are collecting a mill levy thru the JDA, the maximum collected between them cannot exceed 5.0 mills. For some of the loans that are currently active, there is an interest

rate that is applied to those loans that also comes back to the JDA. Typically are loans interest incurred is 1% over prime, but in some cases it does differ than that.

**What are some of the main goals of the SC JDA?** Very simply, to support economic growth within the county for job development. That can be done in many ways. To provide financial support, resource support, referrals, Sometimes to Lead an opportunity, and sometimes to be the gap filler for an opportunity. To be aggressive in analyzing the needs in the county and to seek resources to support those needs.

**How do you go about meeting these goals?** Utilizing our local board members, local financial institutes, Lake Agassiz regional council, State resources if available such as Bank of ND & ND Small Business Administration, potential grants, creative thinking and planning, consultants such as Crossroads Advisory Group; public awareness to let those with potential projects know that we are here.

**What are some of the past projects that the JDA has been involved with in Sargent County?** Though some of our projects are local financial support, it is not the intention to be the primary loan institute but to be a gap filler for those projects that are working with other resources. Some previous projects that have looked to the JDA for some type of support whether financial or other are the Four Seasons Nursing Home in a remodeling project in 2001. The Cogswell Bar & Grill during its initial construction. The Waswick Chiropractic expansion; Expansion of Dakota Micronear Geneseo; Rutland General Store/Café for remodel/update of Café in 2009 and the Coteau des Prairie Lodge in rural Havana. We have also been approached by other business ventures that we start working with and they either find financial support in other directions that better fit their needs, or the JDA has assisted in referrals to other resources. We have also participated in studies such as Wind Energy in the Dickey /Sargent County areas; a Jamestown/Stutsman Transportation Study for potential ethanol plant in 2006.

**What are some projects you are involved with right now?** Our most current projects that we have been able to provide assistance with have been the Four Seasons Villas in Forman; The Bixby Auto & Glass in Milnor; and currently we are working on a spec house located in Milnor. Other individuals have contacted us regarding program availability and information but nothing formal yet.

**What are some changes the JDA has seen in the past couple of years in terms of the type of projects or the needs in the county?** At the beginning years of the organization, the requests were primarily small business ventures; but we have seen a need to provide support on larger scale as costs of construction; research; development have increased. The Housing need across the county is very evident. Recently the SCJDA has contracted with an independent Group to also provide us with input and to track programs that may open up on the state or federal level that could be of benefit to the JDA or to potential needs of the county.

**How does a business go about approaching the JDA with ideas or requests?** An individual or group may contact any of our board members to get started in guidance. Depending on the project being considered; the JDA has several avenues of opportunity to assist with.