

Year End Report Gregory BID

The year-end report for 2019 regarding our activities as Executive Directors of Gregory BID reflects activity on the goals of our strategic plan that was adopted in April of 2019 and the progress we have made.

In the first quarter we worked with the community and adopted a strategic plan that established a mission statement and identified key areas to focus for our community. They are as follows:

Mission Statement:

“Promoting the expansion of economic opportunities and residential development for the future of the Gregory area.”

Goals:

- **Attracting more skilled labor to the area. Goal: one of each; a plumber, HVAC and electrician over the next 3 years.**
- **Sale of residential lots in Grandview. Goal 6 lots over the next two years.**
- **Assessing BIDs structure and determine the best approach to organize as a 1-stop-shop for economic development in Gregory.**

We continue to make progress in finding an additional plumber, electrician and HVAC technicians for the Gregory area. In August we sponsored a local Gregory High School graduate to attend electrician classes at Mitchel Tech. Part of our sponsorship agreement is that he will return to Gregory and help meet our high demand for electrical skills. Our student has just completed his second semester and is doing very well.

Regarding selling residential lots in Grandview, our listing continues with Darla Jordan and Keller-Williams. We are closing on Lot 4, which now has a governor house on its foundation. For the purchase of a Grandview lot please contact Darla at 605-838-7885.

The goal related to assess and determining the best approach to organize as a 1 stop shop for economic development has resulted in the recent passing of a board restructuring plan. The plan puts elected members into 3 year terms that are laddered so that all directors do not have to be re-elected annually. It also helps to provide opportunities for other people in Gregory to be involved.

In 2019, BID was active in helping small business in Gregory. \$45,000 of what was remaining of our \$100,000 revolving loan fund was used to help small business in Gregory. Three businesses were provided with financial help. The amount of funds that was awarded to each of these businesses is dependent on qualifying not only from a financial standpoint, but also by warranting they will provide a proportionate number of new jobs in Gregory. This amount of activity in 2019 with our revolving loan fund is an indicator of economic development activity in Gregory. It also demonstrates that BID needs

to focus on increasing the amount of revolving loan funds that would be available to help further business development. These additional funds will most likely come from grants, i.e. through the USDA. This will be a major focus for BID in 2020.

Finally, we continue to be active in interacting with regional and state economic leadership. Highlights for the year included the BID Board of Directors hosting a regional economic development conference in conjunction with the South Dakota Governor's Office on Economic Development, meetings through the year with Mitchell Tech, USDA, South Dakota Department of Labor, seminars sponsored by the South Dakota Housing Authority on housing, and finally, in December, a meeting with District III in Yankton as to funding opportunities and other resources they have available. Other items of note for the year include making calls on our local businesses and working with the administrative staff at Gregory High School.

We look forward to 2020 and the opportunities that lay ahead of which some we have established the ground work for in 2019. Happy New Year!

You may also email us at GregoryBID@outlook.com

Thanks: Executive Directors Gregg Drees and Rick Messerschmidt

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