



MEMO

County Administrator

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TO: County Commissioners
FROM: Robert W. Wilson
DATE: May 12, 2022
SUBJECT: Consideration of County Job Development Authority (JDA)

At various times over the last several years Cass County State's Attorney Birch Burdick has been asked and answered questions about the County's ability to create a Workforce Advisory Board, otherwise known as a Job Development Authority (JDA). Two years ago, these conversations were one of several potential strategies for funding a local career workforce academy. That project was ultimately funded through a different method and the JDA discussion did not move forward.

Several Commissioners and the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC) have again approached this office about potentially authorizing, appointing, and empowering a Cass County Job Development Authorities (JDA) as a tool to enhance local economic development.

At the Board meeting on May 16, 2022, I plan to review with the Commission the concept of a county Job Development Authority, the potential powers of a JDA as authorized in state statute, and the required steps if the Commission wishes to consider appointing, empowering, and potentially funding a JDA.

Following this discussion, the Commission may direct the County Administrator to develop information about a process, timeline, potential expenses, and staff support required to stand-up a Cass County Job Development Authority and report back to the Board.

SUGGESTED MOTION: Direct the County Administrator to develop information about a process, timeline, potential expenses, and staff support required to stand-up a Cass County Job Development Authority and report back to the Commission.

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