



MINUTES
Special Board Meeting
April 9, 2020

	Kelly Morgan (B)	X	Doug Eberlein (B)	X	Andy Owens (B)
X	Robert Westerman		Mike Lehman	X	Mike Hicks
X	Joe Benetti (B)	X	Debbie Sargent		John Whiteley (B)
X	Bryan Grummon (B)		Ali Mageehon	X	Wayne Patterson
X	Georgia Nowlin (B)		Amy Kincaid		Neal Brown (B)
	Courtney Niebel	X	Marcia Hart	X	Robin Van Winkle
X	Stephanie Smith (B)				

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called to Order at 8:00 by Joe Benetti. 11 members were present, making up 58% of total members with more than 25% representing Businesses. Confirmation of Quorum established.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** No Public Comment Presented.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: VOTE Needed

1. Policy Change for Needs Related Payment

SOWIB previously did not allow a specific type of payment allowable under WIOA. With the COVID-19 pandemic staff is requesting a policy change to allow the Needs Related Payments for WIOA eligible training participants. This will expand our opportunities to help the regional Participants.

Policy attached with newly added section detailing criteria for Needs Related Payments.

MOTION Made by Robert Westerman and 2nd by Andy Owens to approve the changes to Policy P-206. Motion Carried.

2. Suspending Limits for COVID-19 related policies

Board members discussed a summary statement regarding lifting of limitations on expenditures per category. Board members requested more

information on the statement. A break will be taken in the meeting and it will be resumed at 3:00 this afternoon to allow staff to provide the Board with additional background and details on this request.

3. New Bank Account

SOWIB is opening a community business account to receive payments and donations electronically. This account will be used exclusively for deposits to facilitate the payments. The funds will be transferred to the SOWIB business account.

Board members discussed the new bank account and clarified that no payments will be made out of the account. A request was made for monthly financial reports during this crisis.

MOTION made by Robert Westerman to approve the new bank account for deposits only. All funds to be transferred to the main SOWIB account. 2nd by Bryan Grummon. Motion carried.

Meeting paused at 8:22 to allow further clarification of Agenda Item #2. Reconvening at 3:00

Meeting called back to Order at 3:00 by Joe Benetti. Confirmed Quorum re-established.

Motion for consideration:

During this time of crisis, the Board will allow flexibility on spending limitations, on a case by case basis, as approved by the Program Manager.

This flexibility does not allow bending or breaking of federal or state guidelines, but allows flexibility to expand services to individuals experiencing crisis in their own particular way. This flexibility would allow us to serve each person with the options that are best for them.

The following SOWIB imposed limitations would be modified through 6/30/21:

- *Policy 303 ITA – Increase total training amount from \$5000 to \$7500*
- *Policy 206 Support Services – Increase total support service amount from \$250 to \$1000*
- *Policy 204 OJT – Increase maximum reimbursement from 50% to 60%*
- *Provider Contract – Allow 50% of spending and training services to be non-sector. Currently we hold our contractor to 80% sector, this will allow us to meet the needs of our smaller businesses and job seekers in returning to work that meets their immediate needs.*

- *Training assistance is currently limited to only the second year of a two-year program. Allow for assistance for two years of training. Pell grants and other funding will likely be delayed and this will allow participants to quickly enter training while unemployment benefits are still available to them.*
- *Provider Contract Budget Line Item Flexibility – allows staff to give our current contractor flexibility in their current contract with regard to participant expenses. This flexibility would be between the training, OJT, work experience and support service cost categories. It would not allow for additional internal provider expenses, only those funds that are directly for the participant.*

OVERALL SOWIB Budget flexibility – SOWIB has begun receiving additional federal funding for Layoff Aversion, and there is talk statewide of additional federal funding availability. We have also begun receiving funding, and inquiries for various Community COVID-19 responses. Current receipts are well within the annual SOWIB budget spending authority, however that may change quickly and having flexibility to respond quickly may be needed.

During the COVID-19 emergency, staff requests authority to spend additional funds within the SOWIB mission and as part of the Agency wide 2019-2020 budget.

Board members had a brief discussion.

Andy Owens made the motion to adopt the changes as requested.

Bryan Grummon 2nd the motion

Motion Carried Unanimously