

How Much is Enough?

Limiting and Protecting Local Resources in Publicly Financed Development Projects

Overview

- Why is a developer asking for assistance?
- Why would a local government consider providing assistance?
- Protecting Local Resources
 - Policy
 - Process
 - Pro Forma Analysis
- Project Examples



Why is a Developer Asking for Assistance?

- Don't ask, don't get
- Gap!
 - ✓ Insufficient cash flow to....
 - Support the level of debt needed to build the project and/or
 - Provide high enough investment returns to attract equity to build the project
 - ✓ Either insufficiency results in a financial gap
- Why might there be a financial gap?
 - ✓ Unproven market, low market rents, and/or affordable rents
 - ✓ Extraordinary development costs
 - Land, Environmental remediation, Structured parking, Infrastructure

Why would a local government provide assistance?

- <u>Fundamentally: You really, really want what the</u> developer is proposing!!!
 - Existence of financial barriers preventing the private market from developing a site in accordance with your vision
- Public entities participate to overcome these barriers:
 - □ Change the market
 - □ Improve housing availability and choice
 - Improve quality of life
 - Job creation
 - □ Tax base growth and diversification
 - Redevelopment of blighted and polluted areas
 - Downtown revitalization



Protecting Local Resources

- 1. <u>Establish an economic</u> <u>development /</u> <u>redevelopment plan</u>
 - ✓ Helps get staff and policymakers on the same page
 - Provides the foundation for success
 - Ensures you are prepared to act when opportunity arises – flexibility
 - ✓ Sets priorities





Protecting Local Resources

2. Adopt public financing policy

- Communicates goals and parameters for providing public assistance
- Establishes a process for reviewing requests for assistance (application)
- ✓ Sets an expectation for an escrow account funded by the developer to evaluate the application





Key Questions in Public Financing Assistance

- Non-financial:
 - ✓ How does the project advance the community's goals?
 - ✓ What other projects are competing for funding (and attention)?
- Financial ("but for" test):
 - ✓ Does the project have a financial gap?
 - \checkmark If so, how big is the gap?
 - ✓ Does the community have the resources or desire to assist with some or all of the gap?



City of La Crosse Economic Development Policy

Economic Development Ordinance

•Statement of purpose to address economic development challenges

- Establishment of Economic Development Commission
- Sets standards for assistance
- Determination of assistance eligibility
 - ELIGIBLE
 - Business retention/expansion ٠
 - Mixed use developments
 - Downtown office & retail
 - Neighborhood stabilization/revitalization
 - **Removal of blight**

INELIGIBLE

- Speculative office/retail
- **Big box commercial**
- **Pirating of tenants** •
- Market rate multi-family •



Determining Financial Need

- Minimum 15% equity required
- 20 yr. max payback
- TIF assistance should not exceed 10% of increase in improved property value
 - Special considerations for manufacturing, historic buildings or environmental abatement are allowed
 - Fairly unique to La Crosse
- Internal Rate of Return (IRR)
- 20% or more increase in taxable valuation
- Living Wage requirement



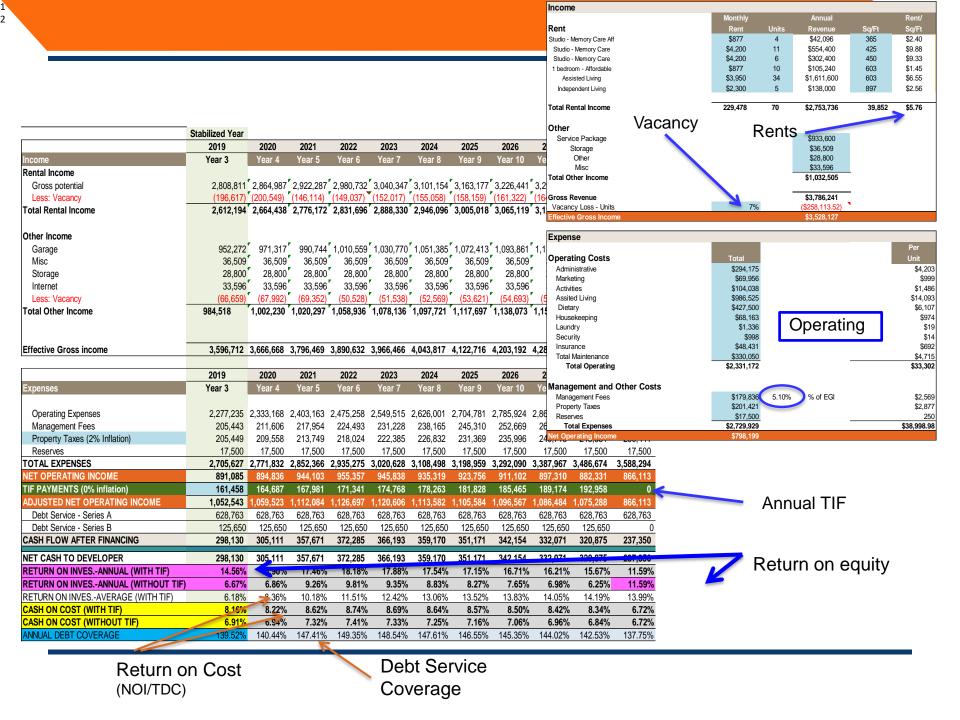
Determining Non-Financial Need

- Responsibility of development to prove community benefits
- Public Benefit
 - Job and business attraction and retention
 - Redevelopment of underutilized properties
 - Enrollment in MTU Works program
 - Strengthen city's economic & employment base
- Special Considerations
 - High quality building materials, standard of urban design
 - Demonstrate effort to attract employees to live within city limits
 - Protection of natural resources



Answering the Financial Questions: Pro Forma Analysis

- Review developer's application and financial information (pro forma)
 - ✓ In depth analysis
 - ✓ Determine gap, if any
 - ✓ Maximize private sources of funding
 - Minimize <u>public assistance</u> needed to make a project financially feasible?





PROJECT EXAMPLES – OFFICE/WAREHOUSE



Northland Ind. – Brooklyn Park, MN

- 8.15 acre site
- **75,000** square foot office / warehouse
 - Primary Tenant: NAPCO – defense contractor with over 50 employees
- TDC of approximately \$5.686 million (\$76 sq/ft)





Northland Ind. – Brooklyn Park, MN

- <u>Challenge:</u> The cost to correct poor soil conditions on the property made development financially infeasible
- Scannell Properties identified a total project gap of \$564,000 (based on bids for soil corrections)





Northland Ind. – Brooklyn Park, MN - Analysis

- Review of developer pro forma
 - ✓ Land costs
 - ✓ Construction costs
 - ✓ Lease rate
 - ✓ Proposed financing (debt, equity, rate, term)
 - ✓ Developer fee
 - ✓ Rate of return target (8% return on cost per developer)

Substantiate extraordinary soil correction costs

✓ Review of bids from multiple third party contractors



SOURCES With No Assistance With Assistance First Mortgage 4,264,496 3,926,996 450,000 City TIF Note $\mathbf{0}$ **Developer Equity** 1,308,999 1,421,499 **TOTAL SOURCES** 5,685,995 5,685,994 USES With No Assistance With Assistance Acquisition Costs 240,451 240,451 **Construction Costs** 4,460,512 4,460,512 **Professional Services** 449,898 449,898 **Financing Costs** 316,490 316,490 Developer Fee 218,643 218,643 **TOTAL USES** 5,685,994 5,685,994 INCOME With No Assistance With Assistance Rent - (75,000 sq. ft. @ \$4.85 / sq. ft.) 363,750 363,750 Annual TIF Income 68,355 0 NET OPERATING INCOME 363,750 432,105 **Total Return on Cost - 8% Target** 6.40% 7.60%



Northland Industrial – Brooklyn Park- Outcome

- Pro forma analysis supported \$450,000
 PAYGO Note over 9
 years
- Construction
 commenced in 2018



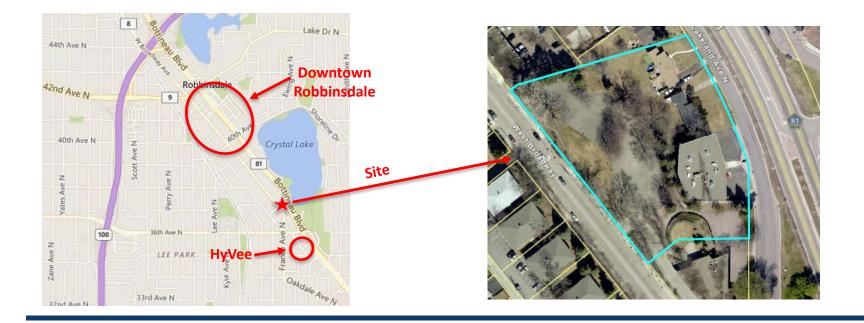


PROJECT EXAMPLES – MARKET RATE APARTMENTS



Bird Town Flats – Robbinsdale, MN

- **2.5** acre site
- **152**-unit market rate apartment
- Redevelopment of vacant and under-utilized parcels
- \$29 million project cost (\$196,000/unit)





Bird Town Flats – Robbinsdale, MN

<u>Challenge:</u>

Redevelopment; land assembly; market rents too low to support new construction

- Beard Group identified a gap of \$4.5 million
- Qualifies as a redevelopment TIF District







Bird Town Flats – Robbinsdale, MN - Analysis



- Review of developer pro forma
 - ✓ Land assembly costs
 - ✓ Construction costs
 - Market rents need to ensure projections are high enough
 - Required review of detailed market study
 - Proposed financing (debt, equity, rate, term)
 - ✓ Developer fee
 - ✓ Rate of return target



Bird Town Flats – Robbinsdale - Analysis

SOURCES						
	TIF Request	Pct.	Per Unit	Analysis	Pct.	Per Unit
First Mortgage	22,332,658	74.9%	146,925	22,332,658	74.9%	146,925
City TIF Note	4,500,000	<mark>15.1%</mark>	29,605	2,500,000	8.4%	16,447
Developer Equity	3,000,000	10.1%	19,737	4,141,600	13.9%	27,247
TOTAL SOURCES	29,832,658	100%	196,267	28,974,258	97%	190,620
USES						
	TIF Request	Pct.	Per Unit	Analysis	Pct.	Per Unit
Acquisition Costs	1,794,000	6.0%	11,803	1,794,000	6.2%	11,803
Construction Costs	22,415,400	75.1%	147,470	22,415,400	77.4%	147,470
Permits/Fees	907,029	3.0%	5,967	907,029	3.1%	5,967
Professional Services	1,539,560	5.2%	10,129	1,539,560	5.3%	10,129
Financing Costs	918,269	3.1%	6,041	918,269	3.2%	6,041
Developer Fee	2,258,400	7.6%	14,858	1,400,000	4.8%	9,211
TOTAL USES	29,832,658	100%	196,267	28,974,258	100%	190,620
RETURN ON INVESTMENT		_				
	Year 3	Year 3 Year 15		Year 3	Year 15	
Average Annual Cash on Cash	8.3% 14.0%		8.6%	11.5%		
(Annual Cash Flow / Equity)						



Bird Town Flats – Robbinsdale, MN - Outcome

- \$2.5 million
 PAYGO Note
 over 15 years
- Construction commenced in 2018





River Oaks Landing – Fergus Falls, MN

- **4.84** acre site
- Development of greenfield site
- **24-**unit market-rate senior rental housing (55+)
- **\$4.17** million project cost (**\$173,750**/unit)





River Oaks Landing – Fergus Falls, MN

- <u>Challenge:</u> City needed
 new rental housing choices
- Developers unable to make the numbers work
- City agreed to partner for new housing
- Goal: more housing choices for seniors – free up housing for the workforce

Financial Returns	No Assistance		
	Year 3	Year 10	
Rents	412,154	473,436	
Operating Expenses	(130,651)	(142,538)	
Net Operating Income (NOI)	281,503	330,898	
First Mortgage Debt Service	(240,802)	(240,802)	
Net Income	40,701	90,096	
Return on Equity	3.8%	8.4%	
		Below Market Returns!	



River Oaks Landing – Fergus Falls Analysis

- Rents
 - \$1.10/ft projected rents (aggressive for the market)
- Project development costs and operating expenses were reasonable for the market
- Below market returns
- Tax Abatement could be used for this project



River Oaks Landing – Fergus Falls Analysis

Financial Returns	No Assistance		With Assis	tance
	Year 3	Year 10	Year 3	Year 10
Rent	412,154	473,436	412,154 4	73,436
Operating Expenses	(130,651)	(142,538)	(130,651) (1	42,538)
Tax Abatement	0	0	18,065	18,065
Net Operating Income (NOI)	281,503	330,898	299,568 3	48,963
First Mortgage Debt Service	(240,802)	(240,802)	(240,802) (2	240,802)
Net Income	40,701	90,096	58,766 1	08,161
Return on Equity	3.8%	8.4%	5.5%	10.1%



River Oaks Landing – Fergus Falls Outcome

- \$175,000 PAYGO Tax Abatement Note for 15 years
- Developer assumed partial costs of a City trail in exchange for 5 more years
- Project is complete and fully occupied



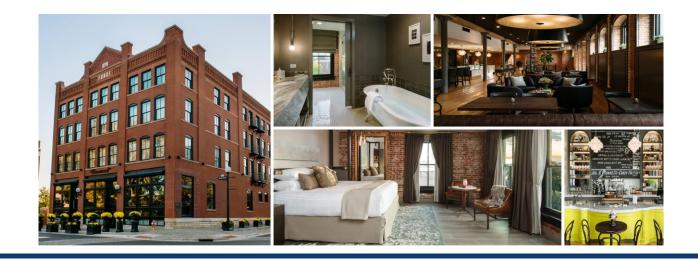


LA CROSSE PROJECT EXAMPLES – TIF PROJECTS



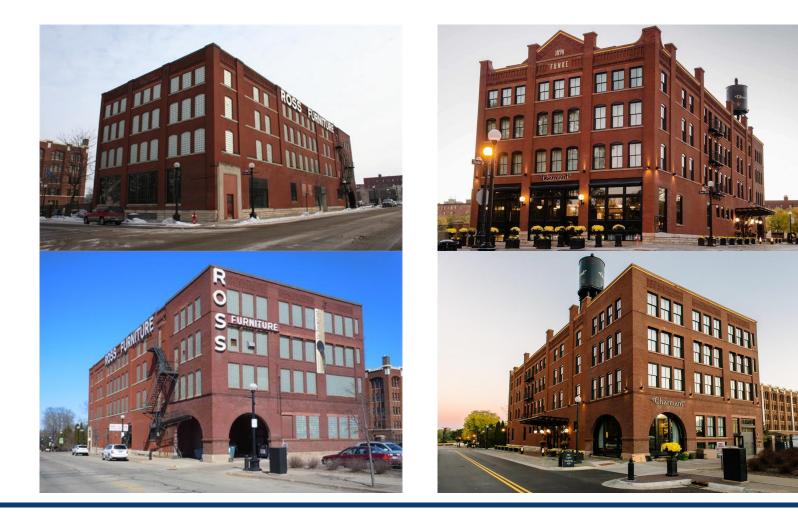
Charmant Hotel, 2015

- <u>Challenge</u>: Historic redevelopment built in 1898 former candy shop-turned-furniture warehouse
- **4-story, 67**-room award-winning luxury boutique hotel with a full restaurant, bar, and rooftop patio
- \$26M project cost \$750,000 in PAYGO TIF
- 2014 value: \$405,800 vs. 2019 value: \$9,214,800





Charmant Hotel – 2015





Doerflinger's Building (Duluth Trading Company), 2016

- Redeveloped building with first floor retail tenant
- <u>Challenge</u>: Historic building renovation – originally built in 1904 as Doerflinger's Department Store
- **\$1.85M** project cost
- \$192,810 in City funding
 \$98,810 TIF grant
 \$94,000 loan
- 2016 value: \$1,817,500 vs. 2019 value: \$2,407,600





Doerflinger's Building (Duluth Trading Company), 2016













2219 Lofts, 2016

- **1.31** acre site
- <u>Challenge</u>: Tornado-damaged historic building built in 1903 – formerly part of Gund Brewery, National Guard Armory, Bakalars Sausage Company, LIHTC
- 24 low-income apartment units
- \$3.54M project cost
- \$666,000 City funding
 \$500,000 City CBDG/HOME loan
 \$166,000 PAYGO TIF



• 2016 value: \$358,800 vs. 2019 value: \$881,500



2219 Lofts – Opened January 2017







The Hub on 6^{th,} 2018

- **1.64** acre site
- <u>Challenge</u>: Redeveloped Former La Crosse County Administrative Building – 1960s Brutalist architecture, asbestos remediation
- 95 apartment units for rent
- **18** 4th floor condos for purchase
- \$15M project cost
- \$1.7M City funding
 - \$1.2M TIF grant
 - \$500,000 TIF loan -

repaid with condo sales





The Hub on 6th, 2018









DuraTech Industries, 2018

- 6 acre lot
- <u>Challenges:</u> Industrial/manufacturing building expansion – 47,000 SF – job creation requirement – 41 jobs
- \$7.5M project cost
- City funding:
 - •\$275,000 TIF PAYGO grant
 - Industrial Revenue Bonds





DuraTech Industries, 2018









Garden Terrace Apartments, 2019

- **1.9** acre site
- Challenge: Floodplain elevation, LIHTC project
- **50**-unit, mixed-income apartments and a 2,000 SF community center with attached greenhouse
- \$7.8M project cost
- City contributions:
 - •\$180,000 TIF grant •\$700,000 CDBG loan

Donation of City property/land swap







Garden Terrace Apartments, 2019













Final Thoughts

- Just because a developer asks for assistance doesn't mean they NEED it
- **ALWAYS** have an analysis done to determine need
- Negotiation isn't for the **FAINT** of heart
- **RELY** on your experts to assist in negotiations (they can be the bad guys AND give you political cover)
- Every project is truly **DIFFERENT**
- Affordable housing will **ALWAYS** need some assistance



Jason Aarsvold Ehlers (651) 697-8512 jaarsvold@ehlers-inc.com

Andrea Schnick City of La Crosse (608) 789-8321 schnicka@cityoflacrosse.org