

Salem Grain Targets New Defendants in Ongoing Legal Battle

(KLZA)-- A lawsuit is filed stemming from an ongoing legal battle arising from an attempt to halt the expansion of Consolidated Grain and Barge into Falls City.

The original lawsuit challenged actions taken regarding the project, with the latest legal maneuver aimed at the individuals involved.

The lawsuit, filed by Salem Grain in Richardson County District Court earlier this month, seeks to recover financial damages caused by the alleged wrongful acts of the individual defendants. While those named have ties to either Falls City government, the Economic Development and Growth Enterprise organization, or both, the document states the suit is not aimed at any entity, only at the individuals who acted "outside of, and beyond the scope of, any authority to act as public officials."

Among those listed in the document are EDGE Executive Director Becky Cromer and City Administrator Gary Jorn, along with Bart Keller, Kevin Malone, Charles Radatz, and Beth Sickel, all who have roles connected to EDGE.

The lawsuit alleges the individuals aided Consolidated Grain and Barge to obtain tax increment financing through the City of Falls City without full disclosure or the opportunity for public discussion.

Additionally, it alleges the defendants conspired to deprive Salem Grain of the opportunity to match the expansion deal, had conflicts of interest, and violated the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Salem Grain, in the suit, alleges substantial monetary losses since 2012, based on the actions of the defendants, and seeks both past and future damages.

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