



Minutes

Tucker County Development Authority

January 17, 2019 – 6:00 PM 494 Riverstone Road, Davis, WV 26260

Board Members Present:

Wayne Smith - President, Roscoe 'Ronnie' Beall - Treasurer, Dan Dilly, Dennis Filler, Cory Chase, JR Helmick, Ben Nelson, Titus Helmick

Board Members Not Present: Patrick Darlington - County Commissioner, Al Tomson - Vice President, Sandra Frank – Secretary, Matt Quattro, Amy Wagner, Robby McClung

Quorum present? Yes

Attendees:

Steve Leyh, Executive Director, Tucker County Development Authority

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by Wayne Smith, President.

Minutes

Ben Nelson moved to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2018 meeting and the motion was seconded by Dennis Filler. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Communications and Billing

There was no communications or billing.

Treasurer's Report

The financial report was emailed to the board. President Wayne Smith asked if there were any questions about the report. The financial report will be placed on file for audit.

Executive Director's Report

WV Local Economic Development Grant

- While we are still waiting for the FY19 LED Grant contract to be fully executed. I have some good news. Over the holidays the Development Authorities wrote letters to increase the LED Grant. We



Tucker County Development Authority

PO Box 176
Thomas, WV 26292
(304) 614-8839
tuckercounty@gmail.com
www.TuckerWV.com

currently receive \$14,400 annually from the Development Office. It appears the first draft of the budget bill includes an increase for FY20. If it passes, the amount of the grant should return to \$22,727.

Hardwood Alliance Zone Meeting

- Attended the monthly meeting of the Hardwood Alliance Zone in Elkins where we discussed adding additional trade shows to our outreach schedule.

Hydro FreedomWorks LLC

- Attended the joint meeting of the Development Authority and Planning Commission on January 9 where we heard from Tim Williamson from FreedomWorks LLC and discussed the proposed Big Run Pump Storage Hydro Project.

Tucker County Day

- Continued planning and coordination of Tucker County Day at the Legislature in collaboration with the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce. The event was held yesterday- January 16, 2019 at the State Capitol and Culture Center. In addition to meeting with our Legislative Delegation we also met with leadership from the WV Department of Highways, Department of Commerce, Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and Tourism Commission.

Southern Economic and Development Council

- Last month I reported that I was elected as a new member of the Southern Economic and Development Council. This month I am pleased to report that I've been awarded the Bob Cassell Memorial Scholarship by the SEDC Educational Foundation. As a result of the scholarship, SEDC will cover up to \$1,000 of expenses related to attending the Basic Economic Development Course this year.

Broadband Route

- A new fiberoptic network by Zayo is set to start construction this year, connecting Columbus, Ohio, and Ashburn, Virginia. The project is expected to take an estimated 24-36 months. Zayo will use state rights-of-way for the fiber project and in return, the state would be given access to the fiber.

6:09 PM Titus Helmick arrived

Old Business

Davis Center Redevelopment

Executive Director Leyh reported that while in Charleston he spoke to WVDNR Director Stephen McDaniel about the project. Director McDaniel advised that they cannot sell the



Tucker County Development Authority

PO Box 176
Thomas, WV 26292
(304) 614-8839
tuckercounty@gmail.com
www.TuckerWV.com

property. Leyh explained some of the roadblocks the project is facing and asked how we might be able to work through them. Director McDaniel suggested we meet with Mike Graney, Executive Director of the West Virginia Development Office to look at possibilities.

Tucker County Day at the Legislature – January 16

Senate Bill 28 passed the Senate and was headed to the House of Delegates. This bill effectively lifts the \$200,000 cap the County Commission can use hotel/motel tax for Fire and EMS. SB 20 / 53 are bills that sunsets the tax credit on Wind Power projects in the state thus could provide additional tax revenue for the county. Cory Chase reported that Senator Smith will introduce legislation to allow solar power purchase agreements.

Miners & Merchants Bank Building

Miners and Merchants Bank has asked the Development Authority to set a date for a tour and to do so during bank hours. There have been some preliminary discussion that this project may be a good fit for the Natural Capital Investment Fund as they have some funds available for downtown revitalization and technical assistance. The board agreed to tour the building on January 30th at 1 PM if the bank will agree.

Workforce Housing / Industrial Park Masterplan

Executive Director reported that the first conference call with the folks from BC Workshop was held, the nonprofit community design center from Washington DC. TCDA and Woodlands provided an overview our goals in terms of a masterplan for the site and a clear path forward to establish additional workforce housing. A small working group we are calling the Workforce Housing Task Force consisting of community members and employers will begin monthly meetings this month. It is anticipated that they will continue until June when a clearer vision can be articulated. Ronnie Beall requested a list of the people who will be on the committee.

Industrial Park Sewer Project

A meeting will be held on January 28 with professionals to discuss how to craft an RFP for a feasibility study that touch on all the key requirements. The Development Authority will then take the concept to the stakeholders including the Town of Davis, City of Thomas and Solid Waste Authority. Region 7 and EDA will also be consulted moving forward.

New Business

Big Run Pump Storage Hydro Project

The board discussed an overview of the special joint meeting with the Planning Commission that was held on Wednesday, January 9 at 1 PM in the Tucker County Courthouse Courtroom



Tucker County Development Authority

PO Box 176
Thomas, WV 26292
(304) 614-8839
tuckercounty@gmail.com
www.TuckerWV.com

with Tim Williamson of FreedomWorks LLC to discuss the proposed Big Run Pump Storage Hydro Project. Dennis Filler is planning a visit to the Bath County, Virginia pumped storage hydro facility.

Public Comment

Dennis Filler stated that the Smart Growth America Broadband Workshop will be held on June 11th and 12th. The location of the workshop has not yet been determined.

Adjourn

The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM after a motion from Ronnie Beall. The motion was seconded by Cory Chase and passed unanimously.

The next regular Tucker County Development Authority meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21 at 6 pm in the Clower Run Conference Room at the National Youth Science Foundation Building, 494 Riverstone Road, Davis West Virginia.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Steve Leyh, Executive Director.