



Minutes

Tucker County Development Authority – Executive Committee

October 15, 2020 – 5:30 PM

Due to COVID-19 health concerns the meeting was held by videoconference

Executive Committee Members Present (by teleconference):

Al Tomson – Vice President, Sandra Frank – Secretary, Roscoe ‘Ronnie’ Beall – Treasurer, Dennis Filler, Cory Chase

Executive Committee Members Absent: Ben Nelson

Quorum present? Yes

Attendees:

Steve Leyh, Executive Director, Tucker County Development Authority

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Vice President, Al Tomson.

New Business

Annual Performance Review of Executive Director

Executive Director Leyh provided the Executive Committee an overview of his work of the previous year.

Tucker County's Overall Economy

- On September 1, 2019 Tucker County had 408 businesses. Since that time 67 new companies have filed with the secretary of state resulting in 408 total businesses or 13.48% annual growth.
- Unemployment Rate 4.3% in September 2019 to 17.2% in April 2020 to 8.8% in July 2020
- Increasing Tucker County Median Household Income from \$39,539 in 2017 to \$48,070 in 2018

Some of the accomplishments I am most proud of this year include:

- Corridor H Authority and our work to secure additional funding for Route 48 construction in Tucker County.



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- Pro Poly Paying Rent
- Creating additional income through creative ways, such as the certificate of deposit that resulted in an addition \$5,000 to our coffers.
- New Grant County Credit Card
- New website
- Successful FY19 audit with only one finding - Segregation of Duties.
- Parsons Blueprint Team
- Closed outstanding DEP permits for the Industrial Park
- Industrial Park Masterplan
- Broadband to Industrial Park
- Connecting Timberline Mountain to WVEDA Financing
- Tucker County Day
- Corridor H Authority
- Mon Forest Towns
- Former Davis Center Redevelopment Project
- Wastewater Feasibility Study
- COVID Response & Retention Efforts – PPP Loans, EIDL, Grants
- COVID-19 Resource Page on Website
- Support Our Shops Website
- Hosting Virtual Small Business Roundtable
- CVB, HAZ
- Attending Economic Development Institute
- Timberline Mountain announced over 10 million in capital improvements to the mountain. They will install a new 6-passenger high speed chairlift - the first of its kind in West Virginia as well as a new 4-passenger mid-mountain chairlift. The mountain will get extensive upgrades to the snowmaking system, a fully remodeled rental shop and consolidated food service facilities. They are planning to open the mountain this winter.
- Hyperloop is a \$500 million dollar facility in Grant & Tucker Counties. It will create 150-200 permanent positions and thousands of construction jobs. It will be a catalyst for the region and help make the case for infrastructure improvements.

Some of the areas where I have fallen short of my expectations and goals include:

- AML Grant
- Board of Education Building
- 90 Acres
- No Pitch Contest (COVID)



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Future opportunities for growth:

- Industrial Park Strategic Plan
- Efforts to bring broadband to Tucker County
- The creation of a Tucker County technology incubator/accelerator at the TAP Room in Thomas to help diversify our economy and provide additional workforce housing.
- Connecting Davis to Thomas via trail and rail trail connecting Thomas with Hendricks, Hambleton & Parsons.
- Collaboration with Canaan Valley & Timberline resort management to address workforce housing needs.
- Continue professional development to become a Certified Economic Developer by 2021.
- Hyperloop
- Budget

What things can the Development Authority board do to further support my progress and success?

- Remain open to new ideas, projects, and partners
- Stay engaged as a board - respond promptly to emails, attend meetings, review financials, etc.
- Be an advocate for the organization. Passionately talk about the Development Authority and the important work we are doing
- Continue being supportive in general and of professional development and networking opportunities.

The committee provided positive feedback and thanked Mr. Leyh for his work. Vice President, Al Tomson recommended the full board discuss the performance review at a future meeting.

Adjourn

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM after a motion by Ronnie Beall, seconded by Cory Chase.

The next regular meeting of the Tucker County Development Authority will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6 PM.



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Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Frank, Secretary