



Tucker County Development Authority

PO Box 176

Thomas, WV 26292

(304) 614-8839

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www.TuckerWV.com

Minutes

Tucker County Development Authority

June 16, 2022 – 6:00 PM

NYSC – 494 Riverstone Road, Davis, WV 26260

Board Members Present:

Wayne Smith – President, Sandra Frank – Secretary, Roscoe ‘Ronnie’ Beall –Treasurer, Dennis Filler, Jody Flanagan, Gary Roy, JR Helmick (via telephone), Cory Chase (via telephone)

Board Members Absent: Commissioner - Mike Rosenau, April Miller, Bruce Kolsun, Ben Nelson, Robby McClung (excused), Dan Dilly – Vice President (excused)

Quorum present? Yes

Guests:

Steve Leyh, Executive Director, Tucker County Development Authority
Shane Whitehair, Executive Director, Region VII Planning & Development Council
Jim Marshall, Region VII Planning & Development Council

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by President, Wayne Smith.

Minutes

Ronnie Beall motioned to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2022, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Dennis Filler. The minutes of the previous meetings were approved unanimously.

Communications and Billing

- **Workforce WV Interest Charges**

A letter from Workforce WV notifying TCDA was delinquent in third and fourth quarter unemployment filings for 2021. Initially, Workforce implied TCDA filings would begin in January 2022, but now is stating August 2021 as the start date because this is the date Tucker County Development Authority, Inc. was established as a new corporation. As a result, Executive Director Leyh had instructed the TCDA accountant to submit the delinquent filings and make the contribution for those past due quarters. A new letter was received this week stating TCDA



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is responsible for \$76.50 (penalty/interest fees) for the past due quarters and these needs to be paid by June 21. The board agreed to pay the fees.

Treasurer's Report

The financials were sent to board members prior to the meeting. They were reviewed and will be filed for audit.

Executive Director's Report

Small Business Growth Accelerating

- Tucker County has added 38 new business entities in 2022. Growth rate of 6.76%.

Unemployment Rate Trending Back Down

- Tucker County unemployment rate was 4.1% in April
- The unemployment rate decreased from 4.7% in March

Wireless Internet Networks (WIN) Program

- New \$10 million grant program to expand internet connectivity to 13 state parks.
- Blackwater Falls State Park ranks as priority number 3.
- Internet Service Provider must provide minimum of 100mb of bandwidth to the following park areas: North side cabins, rec/nature center, gift shops and outside area, campground check in station, campground, and residences.
- Service into surrounding communities is possible.
- Applications are due June 30.

Hardwood Alliance Zone

- Sharing booth with the West Virginia Department of Economic Development at International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta in late August.
- More than 800 exhibitors attend the trade show.

Meeting with City of Parsons

- Met with Mayor Dorothy Judy and Administrator Stephanie Murphy to discuss TCDA board vacancy.
- They provided an update on their efforts and I offered to support their needs.

WVCorp Insurance

- Completed & submitted all paperwork for insurance renewal.

Resolving Issues with Workforce WV

- Unemployment Compensation charged us for previous quarters in 2021.



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Assisting Small Businesses

- Continue to counsel and assist entrepreneurs.
- Actively identifying ways to support their efforts and connect them to resources.

Old Business

Wastewater Feasibility Study

- **Update on projects in Davis & Thomas**

A meeting was held with RK&K, the Town of Davis engineering firm and Potesta & Associates the engineering firm that completed the wastewater study. RK&K is trying to address each of the short-term recommendations in the wastewater study.

- **Discussion of Development Authority's Responsibilities**

Region VII Executive Director, Shane Whitehair, spoke about how the Tucker County Development Authority was instrumental in taking the lead on the wastewater feasibility study. He explained that the request for qualifications for the wastewater feasibility study was worded to allow the Tucker County Development Authority to use the same engineering firm (Potesta & Associates), if the board so chooses, to continue with developing the preliminary engineering report and all the necessary engineering requirements towards construction of a new centralized wastewater treatment plant. The Development Authority could continue this process and once a new Public Service District (PSD) has been formed, the Development Authority would be able to pass the entire project over to the new PSD. Shane Whitehair and Jim Marshall agreed to continue to seek out funding opportunities.

- **Formation of Public Service District**

County Commissions are responsible for creating the new Public Service District and for appointing the members of the PSD.

- **Designing Centralized Wastewater Treatment Facility**

The Tucker County Development Authority may continue to use Potesta & Associates to continue to move forward on designing the new wastewater treatment facility. The first step would be for Potesta to develop a Preliminary Engineering Report.

Dennis Filler motioned to expand the current vehicle to allow for Potesta & Associates to develop the Preliminary Engineering Report. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution**



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A resolution was presented for consideration. Executive Director Leyh reported that both the City of Thomas and the Town of Davis have passed similar resolutions supporting the recommendations in the wastewater study. The resolution reads:

A resolution supporting improvements to the existing Wastewater Collection Systems and Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) for the Town of Davis and City of Thomas in the short-term (0-5 years), and the development of a centralized, regional collection system and WWTP for the long-term (5+ years)

Whereas, the Town of Davis and the City of Thomas have historical and ongoing environmental compliance issues with their existing systems.

Whereas, the Town of Davis, the City of Thomas, and the surrounding areas are experiencing growth and projected to continue to grow.

Whereas, a regional wastewater feasibility study was performed by Potesta & Associates, Inc. for the Tucker County Development Authority entitled "Sewer Feasibility Study" dated January 11, 2022.

Whereas, the West Virginia Development Office, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the West Virginia Water Development Authority have strongly encouraged the pursuit of the recommendations in the study and express their willingness to work with the local communities to implement the recommendations.

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved by the Tucker County Development Authority that:

1. The Tucker County Development Authority strongly supports the recommendations in the Sewer Feasibility Study.
2. The Tucker County Development Authority will work closely with the City of Thomas, Town of Davis, Tucker County Commission, and other appropriate government agencies to implement the recommendations in the study.

Resolution approved and adopted this ___ day of June, 2022.

A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Dennis Filler and was seconded by Sandra Frank. The motion passed unanimously.



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Industrial Park Protective Covenants & Restrictions

TCDA attorney, Josh Jarrell had previously agreed to provide a cursory glance at the protective covenants. The board asked the Executive Director to inquire with the attorney how quickly the protective covenants could be completed and how much it would cost.

Certificate of Deposit

The new 6-month certificate of deposit at Grant County Bank has been deposited. Wayne Smith, Dan Dilly, & Ronnie Beall are signers. It will mature on November 25, 2022.

New Business

Letter of Support – City of Thomas Sidewalk Improvements

The City of Thomas is submitting a WVDOH Transportation Alternatives funding application for its Sidewalk Repair, Restore, and Reconnect project. They have asked if the Development Authority would send a letter of support. A draft letter of support was sent to the board for review.

Dennis Filler motioned to approve sending the letter of support. The motion was seconded by Sandra Frank and passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel Modification

The Tucker County Development Authority's attorney - Josh Jarrell is moving to a different law firm. Previously he was associated with Steptoe & Johnson, he is now associated with Spilman, Thomas & Battle in Morgantown. The board asked the Executive Director to the inquire if Mr. Jarrell's rates would change.

TCDA City of Parsons Representative Resignation and Successor

On May 23, 2022, Steven Sponaule submitted his resignation from the Tucker County Development Authority. Steven was serving as the City of Parsons Representative. Although Bruce Kolsun is already on the board, he is willing to serve as the City of Parsons representative. A formal decision must be made by the City of Parsons Mayor & City Council. In addition, the Development Authority will be seeking out an additional person from Parsons to serve on the board.

Public Comment

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM after a motion by Ronnie Beall seconded by Sandra Frank.



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The next meeting of the Tucker County Development Authority will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 6 PM at the National Youth Science Foundation Center in Davis.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Frank, Secretary