

**FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARD ROOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019
MINUTES
6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – Chuck Nagel (chairman), Richard Hill (vch.), Russ Cotton, Josh Davis (arrived at 4:05) all present. Bryant Kempf is excused.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval January 8, 2019 minutes of regular meeting

Motion to approve January 8, 2019 minutes made by Cotton, seconded by Hill. *Motion passed.*

b. Approval January 23, 2019 special meeting minutes

Motion to approve January 23, 2019 special meeting minutes made by Hill, seconded by Cotton. *Motion passed.*

4. Public Input

5. Approval of Claims

Motion to approve February claims made by Cotton, seconded by Hill. *Motion passed.*

6. Treasurers Report

All funds have positive balances. Questions asked about the tort judgment fund that goes negative every year until real estate taxes are distributed in July. This year that negative balance should only be for a month as we are paying the insurance premium 50% now and the other 50% in June. Therefore there should only be one month that has a negative balance. It was asked where the contingency fund shows up and it was reported that it is under budget 210.

Five of the six revolving loans are current.

The comparative revenue report is given to the committee every month. It shows what was budgeted to be received, and what we actually received from December of last year verses December this year. It is revenues only. The state is not behind on any payments as of right now.

7. Budget

8. New Business

a. Discussion/Action – Purchase Ordinance

There is a discrepancy in the Board rules and the Purchase Ordinance that needs to be fixed. There is no statute that says we have to have a purchase ordinance. The only department that is really affected is the Highway Department. It was pointed out that the rates have not been corrected for inflation in years, and the amounts were actually reduced the last time it was amended. Mr. Moore, Woodford County Engineer, was happy that the amount was increased to \$3,000 for small purchases, but still felt that amount was low. State statute defines a small purchase at under \$10,000. The committee was presented with a short purchase ordinance version to look at. This shortened version makes purchases for the Highway Department simpler. The criminal and civil action that could be taken in the current ordinance puts Mr. Moore's PE license at risk. His claims and spending are reviewed every month at the Road and Bridge Committee. He also tries to get three quotes on any purchase he makes. Motion to adopt the new purchase ordinance and send to the full board made by Hill, seconded by Cotton. *Motion passed.*

b. Revolving Loan Program – ADA Projects, Matching Funds and Recap the Jan. 23 Meeting

There was a meeting with the townships and municipalities on January 23 where they were asked to come up with projects that are ADA approved. The timeline provided has a change. The second box is actually done after the grant is awarded. The townships/municipalities are to come up with project, projected costs, and how it fits into ADA, then the committee will have to determine which projects will be moved forward. Projects need to be submitted to committee by April 30th. Discussion on proposed projects that come in after April 30th. Those that come in after April 30th will still be considered, but will go to the bottom of the list. It was suggested that the proposals have to be post marked by April 30th. The first step will be a letter sent to all townships/municipalities/Sheriff/Health Department asking them to provide a rough description of their project, how it applies to ADA, and a rough estimate cost. This is to be brief description. Then the next step will be to provide hard costs for their project by May 14th.

c. Goals for Economic Development (3)

In order to move forward, we have to have goals. Three goals were suggested;

1) Create comprehensive develop plan for municipalities and county.

Mr. Nagle and Mr. Cotton met with a few mayors and they are working on a comprehensive plan.

2) Business and job attraction

Need to focus on Goodfield area as 74 and exit are ideal.

3) Finish and close out RLF.

Discussion on if the board will see these goals as too broad. This will not go to the board, but the committee will focus on these goals, define them, and then present to the board.

Discussion on what EDC is doing to help promote skilled trade labor.

d. Vacant Seat – Tri-County

Since we do not have a 7th municipality to take a seat, the County ends up paying for the seat. Since we are paying for the seat, we might as well appoint someone to it. Motion for resolution to pay for 7th seat to Tri-County Davis, seconded by Cotton. *Motion passed.*

9. Unfinished Business

a. Revolving Loan Program – discussion and action on forgiveness.

It was stated how important it is to keep the revolving loan program in play. It helps bring businesses into the county. In order to avoid an increase in property tax, you have to increase sales tax. It was suggested that we take out a short term loan and buy out the loans from the state and keep the program in place. The loan participants have two choices. 1) take a percentage forgiveness and refinance on their own, or 2) stay in the program. We take the payments and use the loan payments to attract other businesses. The only money that would be used would be the payments that are paid back. There is no exposure to the county as this was not county funds used in the beginning. It was suggested that if we keep the loans and run our own program, then we need to make sure the securities are still there. Discussion on how we need to move the one loan in default off the books so we do not end up paying the state for it when we are not getting any payments on the loan.

Discussion on the percentage to forgive. Mr. Gobin and Mr. Whortman stated that the forgiveness has to be appealable. We are dealing with this situation because the state couldn't. It was suggested that 45% be forgiven. Some committee members felt this was too high. Discussion on the amount that would be agreeable and it was determined that 30% would be the maximum that the committee could agree upon. There are only 2 of the 5 loans that will take this option. So we are helping two businesses, while the other 3 do not get any help. Motion to buy the 5 active loans from the state, take the defaulting loan off the books, and offer the remaining participants two options, to either stay in the program, or take a 30% percentage forgiveness and refinance, and to reevaluate if securities are still there made by Cotton, seconded by Davis. Roll call vote – Nagel – yes, but thinks the percentage of forgiveness should be higher; Davis – yes, but thinks the percentage should be lower; Cotton – yes. *Motion passed.*

10. Other

a. Update on Mayors/ County Board EDC

Mr. Nagel and Mr. Cotton have met with several mayors and will have more meetings in the future for economic development.

b. CEDS

GPEDC report presented to the committee

c. IIRA Conference

Mr. Nagel will be attending the conference on March 6th and 7th.

11. Executive Session

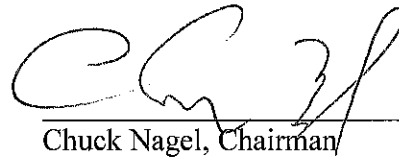
12. Any Action Coming Out of Executive Session

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Cotton, seconded by Davis. ~~Motion passed.~~

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman



Chuck Nagel, Chairman
Finance Committee