



GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, @ 6:30 p.m.

Due to Covid-19, this meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference

CALL TO ORDER

- A meeting of the Economic Development Authority Board of Directors was held via Zoom Video Conference on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Call to order at 6:30 pm with Mr. James Tsikerdanos, Chairman, presiding.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- Members in Attendance: James Tsikerdanos, Matt Sweetanos, Paul Reickart, Whitt Ledford, Julia Roberts
- Members Absent: Michael Payne
- Non-Members in Attendance: Bill Martin

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Minutes from September 21, 2021, were distributed electronically to all board members. Mr. Sweetanos moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIALS

- P & L and Balance sheets for EDA and Tourism were distributed electronically to all board members. No questions. Mrs. Roberts moved to accept the financial reports. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, and the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM DIRECTOR

- No reports

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Ms. Gwen Baker asked whether there will be an executive session at tonight's meeting; will it be about Abby's position or something else. Mr. Tsikerdanos replied that there will not be an executive session.
- Mr. Bill Martin asked a question about Jack's Shop interest payment; he stated that he assumes the payoff of the loan is public and state that Jack's Shop is doing well. He suggested the EDA make a public statement to relay the loan payoff to the public.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bond Financing – Mr. Tsikerdanos reviewed how the process works and had nothing new to add.

NEW BUSINESS

- Agricultural Support Initiative
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos – With the development of Villages at Terrace Greene, how can EDA help farm lands and farmers. Mr. Tsikerdanos has met several farmers one on one. He suggests bringing in agricultural representatives regarding grants and loans that may be available. Would a grant be available for a year-round farmers market? Regarding processing – cattle and other foods are processed outside the county. What would it take to get through USDA or through EDA

support, to get meat processing to support farm to table. Mr. Tsikerdanos is looking at grants that would allow farmers to give up some land to be developed for processing and other farmers would be given access to the processing facility.

- Mrs. Roberts - could other adjacent counties partner with Greene? There might be more support if additional counties were included.
- Mr. Ledford - speaking as a small farmer, it is very difficult to find USDA facilities that have the room for livestock. The facilities are having difficulty filling positions. USDA approval is needed in order to sell products and it takes lots of time and effort.
- Mr. Martin - good ideas. Asked if Mr. Tsikerdanos has reached out to the agricultural extension. They may have resources to help with this idea. Sarah Sharp would be the contact person.
- Mr. Tsikerdanos - could consider sponsoring monthly meetings for farmers. Sponsor one, provide food, and get as many farmers out and bring in USDA and VA Ag people together with the farmers.
- Mr. Reickart - transporting animals to processing then transporting the product back increases the costs for the farmers. Increased demand for processing leads to increased costs for farmers as well.
- Mr. Leford - as farmers raising both poultry and four legged animals, he states that a farmer can raise up to 999 animals if they are poultry and can sell them to the public, but if the number is higher than 999, then the farmer has to go through a USDA facility for processing. With all four-legged mammals, the meat must be processed through a USDA facility in order to sell the product.
- James states that he envisions a campus for both food processing and for farmers and smaller scale homestead. Farmers market would provide restaurant access. Could connect restaurants to farmers through the farmers market.
- Mr. Ledford - a cooperative approach might be a good solution for farmers on a sustainable level.
- Mr. Tsikerdanos needs to meet with others to see how they are doing it. He wants to meet with the extension office. He says money exists to support possible projects. We need to get dollar figures and logistics together.
- Mr. Ledford - it's a great idea and good for families using farms to feed their families.
- Mr. Tsikerdanos – will discuss further.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next regular meeting of the EDA will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Reickart moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Roberts seconded. Motion passed unanimously.