



GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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, March 15, 2022. Call to order at 6:30 pm with Mr. James Tsikerdanos, Chairman, presiding.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- Members in Attendance: James Tsikerdanos, Michael Payne, Whitt Ledford, Julia Roberts, Paul Reickart, Corey Jacober
- Members Absent: Matt Sweetanos
- Non-Members in Attendance: Alan Yost, Diana Gamma

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Minutes from January 18, 2022, were distributed electronically to all board members. Mr. Ledford moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Payne seconded. Motion passed with Mr. Jacober abstaining due to not being a member of the board at the January meeting.

FINANCIALS

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

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

- Mr. Yost – Villages at Terrace Greene continues to move forward; The Knoll apartment complex is nearing opening; Sojourner Glamping will go before the Board of Supervisors at the first April meeting [April 12, 2022]

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- No comments

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Agricultural Support Initiative
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos - researching the possibilities for a Commercial kitchen and deep freezer storage in Greene; met with the principal at the Greene tech center and will continue conversations

NEW BUSINESS

- Extension Office Workshops
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos approached the subject of the EDA sponsoring workshops to promote and get maximum participation from current and future ag businesses

- Workshop topics include: How to start a farm, how to start a homebased food business, how to start an agritourism business, and land/farm transition
- Workshop costs are generally \$20-25
- EDA board discussed:
 - the possibilities of helping with advertising, supplementing the cost for the attendees, and setting up a table at the farmers market
 - questions about the Extension Office workshop budget and the need for more information regarding hard costs
- Value Added Products Development
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos announced that the Farmers Market received a grant to promote and develop a regional farmers market; it will be year round
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos opened a discussion about small grants for development of home-based businesses to make value added foods to sell at the market; the group discussed:
 - possibilities of partnerships with/between the tech center, PVCC, Farm Bureau and Extension Office
 - grants and how to monitor them
 - loans vs grants
 - forgivable loans with performance requirements such as selling at the Farmers Market
 - limitations of allowable food products produced in home kitchen vs those made in commercial kitchen
- Meat Processing Development
 - Mr. Tsikerdanos said that there is interest from a private business to potentially build a meat processing plant in the area; Mr. Tsikerdanos is currently exploring the possibility of a USDA grant

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next regular meeting of the EDA will be on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

- Mrs. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.