

**GREENE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 17, 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, May 17, 2022. Call to order at 6:30 pm with Mr. James Tsikerdanos, Chairman, presiding.

**RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

- Members in attendance: Michael Payne, Whitt Ledford, Matt Sweetanos, Paul Reickart, Rachel Clancy (replacing Julia Roberts on the EDA), James Tsikerdanos
- Members absent: Corey Jacober
- Non-Members in Attendance: Alan Yost

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- Minutes from March 15, 2022, were distributed electronically to all board members. Mr. Payne moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ledford seconded. Motion passed with Ms. Clancy abstaining due to not being a member of the board at the time of this meeting

**FINANCIALS**

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

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

- Mr. Yost states no new business licenses; Jack's Shop is now serving ice cream; Mr. Yost to meet with Holiday Inn Express regarding the possibilities for shared office/work space in basement suites, currently vacant.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- Ms. Gwen Baker states she is very excited to hear about the office space. Looking forward to hearing about the commercial kitchen feasibility.
- Mr. Ledford, speaking as a member of the public, comments that USDA cut off any meat deliveries for Feeding Greene and that it is very difficult for them to get any products. He would like everyone to consider solutions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Tsikerdanos looking at EDA trying to help sponsor extension office workshops to provided the needed funds. The charge is \$250 per workshop. Mr. Tsikerdanos thought to donate \$1,000 to support all four workshops.
- Mr. Reickart asks how the workshops are currently funded. Mr. Yost states he is not sure. Mr. Reickart asks if it would be out of character for EDA to be a sponsor
- Mr. Tsikerdanos states that the agricultural extension has no budget. EDA support would lower the cost of the workshops and give EDA exposure to the agricultural community
- Mr. Yost states if EDA is a sponsor this would give them buy-in with the agricultural community
- Mr. Reickart moves for EDA to donate \$1,000 to the agricultural extension to sponsor the workshops. Mr. Payne seconds. Motion passed.
- Discussion regarding Value Added Products and making grants or forgivable loans for agricultural equipment. Mr. Tsikerdanos will put together a draft program based on the discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- EDA Officers – new nominations
  - Mr. Payne nominates Mr. Tsikerdanos as Chairman; Mr. Payne makes a motion, Mr. Sweetanos seconds. Motion passes.
  - Mr. Tsikerdanos nominates Mr. Payne as Vice Chairman; Mr. Tsikerdanos makes a motion, Mr. Ledford seconds. Motion passes.
  - Mr. Tsikerdanos nominates Mr. Sweetanos as Secretary/Treasurer; Mr. Tsikerdanos makes a motion, Mr. Reickart seconds. Motion passes.
- Commercial kitchen discussion
  - Grant funds – will need a feasibility study which can cost \$10,000 to \$20,000. It is noted that Culpeper and Charlottesville are creating their own commercial kitchen projects
  - Large cold storage is identified as a key component for farmers.
  - Mr. Ledford suggests a structure is needed where people can afford user fees to help offset the cost
  - Mr. Payne suggests a sign-up list to gauge interest prior to a feasibility study to determine how much freezer storage versus refrigerated storage is needed.
  - Mr. Tsikerdanos says there is still discussion about doing meat processing in Greene
  - Farmers with surplus could have an outlet through Feeding Greene and utilize cold storage or a commercial kitchen as a central point
  - Mr. Tsikerdanos to put together a survey. Mr. Yost to help find a person or group for a feasibility study.
  - Mr. Payne suggests sending the survey to business license holders and farmers
  - Mr. Ledford says bed and breakfast operators could accommodate more catered events with a commercial kitchen. Small operators could sell their products if produced in a commercial kitchen.
- Mr. Tsikerdanos brings up the Economic Forum in the fall. A panel discussion to open up ideas for the County. The public can comment on each focus area.
- The Economic Forum would be jointly conducted with the Board of Supervisors.
- Mr. Payne reminds all of Red, White, Blue and Greene for Independence Day.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting of the EDA will be on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sweetanos moves to adjourn. Mr. Reickart seconds. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.