

ALLEN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ADVISORY BOARD

June 29, 2017

Chuck opened the meeting at 5 p.m. Those present are:

Chuck Apt, III
Travis Coffield
Jerry Dreher
Don Erbert
Herb Sigg
Matt Skahan
Susan Thompson

Visitors:

Alan Weber
Jill Allen

Chuck asked if everyone had a chance to review the last meetings minutes. Chuck moved to approve, Jerry seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Chuck discussed the makeup of the second board. There will be seven persons, two year terms-revolving. There would have to be a year absence in between terms of service. Must meet four times per year. These are suggestions for creating such board. It will have to be structured with the county's budgeting process. Alan said the county needs to know what budget will be by June, due to tax lid. Susan asked if it would be fiscal or calendar year. Board members should be a resident of Allen County. Should follow Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. Chuck asked if all were ok with those guidelines. All agreed.

Chuck discussed the application. Jerry and Travis worked on some ideas for the app. Use the current form and interject our own procedures. Susan reported she found there are 146 not for profits, just in Allen County with \$24 million, annually. Funds should not go toward salaries or overhead, but towards assisting citizens of Allen County. Don asked about what we are really trying to accomplish with the monies. Education and training for individuals to go into the workforce, but focus on economic development. Chuck feels they should have a basis in economic development. Applicants must show how it will have an economic impact. Don stated when this is handed off to the new board; give them some sort of direction.

Chuck mentioned the two groups of thought: only give money to local or give money to anyone. Travis discussed reluctance of giving money to a new business that will compete against a business that's been a part of the community for a long time. Susan stated the app needs to be very thorough, check out every facet of the individuals applying. Chuck stated when industries come in new, usually retail isn't given benefits. Duplication of services was mentioned. Since there are so many, this will be a challenge. Travis said it should be considered how many others provide the same service. Matt stated if there are others doing the same, then what makes this one better, prove how it's different or better.

Chuck asked that the board work in two person groups to create an app, get it to Chuck, and then he'll work with Alan to put it all together into one. Don said he thinks there's a stigma asking for money. He's heard this from locals. Chuck said we just have to make people aware

that it's here for anyone, anyone can apply. Alan said it's not for paying people's bills though but expanding their business.

Chuck said this should be a positive. Sometimes businesses that fail, its bad management or maybe they needed an extra \$5,000 to get them over the hump. Jerry said this committee is for creating the app and what happened before, doesn't matter. Chuck said it's about making boundaries. The second board will simply assist the county commissioners in deciding who gets the money.

Chuck asked for everyone's applications by July 20, the next meeting. Alan said you can pretty much ask anything of people on the app; credit card debt, tax returns, financial disclosure, etc. Is this a loan or a grant, Chuck said that would be up to the Commissioners. They will probably have a policy regarding this. Alan stated the Rural Opportunity Zone Program can deal with forgiving student debt. Susan asked how many have taken advantage, Alan said only one has been selected. There is much more need on this than funds available. Alan said it should be added that this is part of a comprehensive project. Everyone is to formulate their questions for the app, perhaps fill it out for your own business to help see what you would ask, what you would be willing to answer yourself. This may help come up with general guidelines.

Chuck asked to have apps to him by July 14, so he can have them distributed for all to look at.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be July 20th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Allen County Conference room.