

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 23, 2020

Chairman Frank Weaver called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:09 a.m., Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Center, North Arkansas College South Campus, Harrison, Arkansas.

The following entities of government were represented:

Baxter County

Judge Mickey Pendergrass, Baxter County

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County

Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge

Boone County

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison

Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville

Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs

Madison County

Judge Frank Weaver, Madison County

Marion County

Judge John Massey, Marion County

Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County

Mr. Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Washington County

Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County

Mr. Steve Clark, Fayetteville

Board Members absent were:

Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Mr. Jeff Pipkin, Mountain Home
Mayor Peter Christie, Bella Vista
Mr. Bill Witty, Harrison
Judge Sam Barr, Carroll County
Mr. David Pemberton, Huntsville
Ms. Nancy Marsh, Huntsville
Mr. Layton Lee, Yellville
Mayor Jan Larson, Jasper
Judge Jim Harness, Searcy County
Mr. Woodie Methvin, St. Joe
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Guests present were:

Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton
Stetson Painter, Field Representative for Congressman Crawford
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Senator Boozman
Teri Garrett, Field Representative for Congressman Womack
Bobby Ballinger, Field Representative for Representative Westerman
Gene Higginbotham, Projects Director for Senator Boozman
Tim Wooldridge, ADFA
Kelsey Kelton, AEDC
Clint Moore, Department of Commerce
Steve Lawrence, ArDOT
Dr. Randy Esters, NAC
Bob Largent, Harrison Regional Chamber
Mike Rotenberry, U.S. Census Bureau
Randy Zook, Arkansas State Chamber
Joe Willis, NWAEDD
Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD
Libby Robinson, NWAEDD
Jack Chisum, NWAEDD/NATS
Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Janine Swirsky, NWAEDD
Kindall Brewer, NWAEDD
Taff Grice, NWAEDD
Susan Sangren, NWAEDD
April Turner, NWAEDD
Karen Henry, NWAEDD
James Moss, NWAEDD
Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD
Beverly Taylor, NWAEDD

Chairman Weaver welcomed everyone and introduced the guests.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Judge Barry Moehring.

Chairman Weaver provided a brief overview of the Executive Committee meeting that was held on January 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., prior to the board meeting. Items of discussion included the review of the NWAEDD November 2019 Financials and the NWAEDD 2020 Budget, all to be presented to the full board for its approval.

Chairman Weaver called for a motion to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of October 16, 2019, meeting. The minutes were presented and approved on a motion by Mayor Butch Berry and a second by Mayor McKinney. The approval was unanimous.

Executive Director Joe Willis discussed the 2020 locality contribution report and entertained questions.

Mr. Mike Rotenberry discussed the 2020 Census – April 1st is going to be official census day. He reminded all present of federal funding that is directly affected by the census to make sure that each county and municipality gets their appropriate shares.

Judge Mickey Pendergrass discussed the Statewide Complete Count Committee (SWCC) of which he is a member. He offered to help anyone with getting information promoting the 2020 Census.

District 1 SWCC members (Benton, Washington, Carroll, Madison, Boone & Newton Counties): Senator Greg Leding, Honorable Becky Lewallen, Mr. John R. Tyson, Mr. Herbert Morales and Ms. Melisa Laelan.

District 2 SWCC members (Marion, Searcy, Baxter, Stone, Fulton & IZard Counties): Honorable Mickey Pendergrass.

Mr. Steve Lawrence, ARDOT, District Nine Engineer, discussed Renew AR Highways 2020 Regional Public Meetings – Town Hall Meetings – Harrison, Tuesday, January 28, 5:30 p.m. at the Harrison High School – Performing Arts Center and Springdale, Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. at the Jones Center. Mr. Lawrence discussed the temporary ½ cent sales tax being voted on this November to make it a permanent tax. CAP 2 Program is 20 years' worth of improvements. He encouraged all to come to the meetings and to share concerns or comments with the Arkansas Highway Department Commission members.

Next, keynote Speaker Mr. Randy Zook, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO, stated that he stated two subjects to talk about. The first one was Issue 1. He talked about the topic of state turnback funds that are at risk if Issue 1 does not get approved as a permanent tax. He reminded everyone that highway funding is one of the absolute building blocks of economic development. He also noted that research shows that the top three issues relative to economic development are workforce quality, workforce quantity & highway accessibility.

His second subject was TOGETHRARKANSAS Opioid Response Initiative. He reinforced for everyone that together, we can create a healthier, drug-free workplace. The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield and AFMC have joined forces to provide Arkansas employers with a toolkit of resources to use – free of charge – to help prepare, prevent, and respond to the opioid crisis. He invited everyone to visit the following website to learn about the prominence of opioid use in our state and watch the online course to learn how to prevent and manage the problem - togetherarkansas.com.

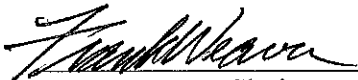
Mr. Clint Moore, Department of Commerce, Arkansas Rural Broadband Task Force spoke next and said that the Governor expects to award \$25 million in broadband grants if all goes as planned. Mr. Moore discussed the rules of the application process to apply for grant money for rural broadband service.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item on the agenda was the review of financial statements for November 30, 2019. Executive Director Joe Willis presented these financial reports. A motion to approve the financial statements was made by Mayor Jackie Crabtree and seconded by Judge Robert Hathaway and the motion carried unanimously.

Director Willis discussed the 2020 NWAEDD Budget which was recommended to the board for approval by the Executive Committee. Motion to approved made by Mayor McKinney and seconded by Mayor Crabtree. Motion carried unanimously.

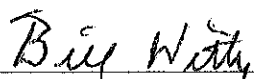
The Executive Director’s report was next on the agenda. Director Willis gave a brief overview of the current CDBG applications that are in the pipeline for March 2020 funding. The District is applying to the Department of Defense to have an IRT Medical Mission in Madison and Newton Counties.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. on a motion by Mayor Berry and seconded by Judge Joseph Wood. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Date: 12/16/2020



Secretary

Date: 4-1-2021

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

DECEMBER 16, 2020

Chairman Frank Weaver called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 11:11 a.m., Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at the Kenton R. Treat Conference Room, Wes Fowler NWAEDD Plaza, 818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas.

The following entities of government were represented:

Baxter County

Judge Mickey Pendergrass, Baxter County (Video)
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home (Video)

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County (Video)
Mayor Jackie Crabtree, Pea Ridge (Video)

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison (Video)

Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville (Video)
Mayor Robert "Butch" Berry, Eureka Springs (Video)

Madison County

Judge Frank Weaver, Madison County
Nancy Marsh, Huntsville (Video)

Marion County

Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville (Video)
Mr. Layton Lee, Yellville (Video)

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County (Video)
Neal Gibson, Western Grove (Video)

Searcy County

Judge Jim Harness, Searcy County (Video)
Mr. Woodie Methvin, St. Joe (Video)

2

Washington County

Judge Joseph Wood, Washington County (Video)
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale (Video)
Steve Clark, Fayetteville (Video)

Board Members absent were:

Mayor Peter Christie, Bella Vista
Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County
Mr. Bill Witty, Harrison
Judge Sam Barr, Carroll County
Mr. David Pemberton, Huntsville
Judge John Massey, Marion County
Mayor Jan Larson, Jasper
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall

Guests present were:

Mayor Jeff Braim, Gassville (Video)
Mayor Bill Edwards, Centerton (Video)
Morgan Scholz, Consultant, Startup Junkie Foundation (Video)
Taylor Hasley, Executive Director, Startup Junkie Foundation (Video)
Stetson Painter, District Director, Congressman Crawford's Office (Video)
Teri Garrett, Field Representative for Congressman Womack (Video)
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Senator Boozman (Video)
Hannah Henderson, Field Representative for Senator Boozman (Video)
Chris Hoover, Field Representative for Senator Cotton (Video)
Scott Miller, Anstaff (Video)
Gil Losurdo, North Arkansas East/West Corridor Association (Video)
Jim Whalen, North Arkansas East/West Corridor Association (Video)
Neil Bonds, North Arkansas College (Video)
Ross Parker, Workforce Board Member (Video)
Kelsey Kelton, AEDC (Video)
Dan Hendrix, UALR (Video)
Devin Howland, Fayetteville (Video)
Bob Largent, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce (Video)
Terry Horton, FTN Associates Engineering (Video)
Billie Reed (Video)
Jennifer Embach, USDA (Video)
Danielle Pugsley (Video)
Jim Fram (Video)
Kristopher Jones (Video)
Joe Willis, NWAEDD

Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD
Libby Robinson, NWAEDD
Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD
Patty Methvin, NWAEDD
Tina M. Cole, NWAEDD
Susan Sangren, NWAEDD
Jack Chisum, NWAEDD
Catherine Baker, NWAEDD (Video)
Janine Swirsky, NWAEDD (Video)
Kindall Brewer, NWAEDD (Video)
Taff Grice, NWAEDD (Video)
Pam Schubert, NWAEDD (Video)
James Moss, NWAEDD (Video)
Rebecca McWilliams, NWAEDD (Video)
Carole Shaver, NWAEDD (Video)

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the January 23, 2020, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Mayor Doug Sprouse.

Next was the review of the district financial reports for October 31, 2020. Executive Director Joe Willis provided an overview of the reports and answered questions. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Judge Barry Moehring and seconded by Judge Joseph Wood and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Joe Willis discussed the 2020 locality contribution report and entertained questions.

Deputy Director Jeremy Ragland introduced Mr. Taylor Hasley, Executive Director and Morgan Scholz, Consultant of Startup Junkie Foundation as guest presenters. They discussed the programs offered by Startup Junkie and their efforts to promote their services throughout the District.

Director Willis discussed the 2019 Audit which had no findings. As a result, the District is now officially designated as a low risk auditee. Chairman Weaver asked for a roll call vote. The 2019 Audit was accepted without dissent.

Chairman Weaver opened the next item of business which was Resolution No. 3087 authorizing the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., to file an application with the Arkansas Department of Transportation for continuation of funding for the North Arkansas Transportation Service (NATS) programs in Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Fulton, Izard, Madison, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties. A motion to approve Resolution No. 3087 was made by Judge Mickey Pendergrass and seconded by Mr. Neal Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Weaver provided a brief overview of the Executive Committee meetings that were held on December 9, 2020. Items of discussion included the review of the NWAEDD September and October 2020 Financials, 2021 NWAEDD Budget, and the NWAEDD Employee Personnel Handbook.

Chairman Weaver called for a motion to approve the Executive Committee Minutes of January 23 and November 18, 20, meetings. The minutes were presented and approved on a motion by Mayor Jackie Crabtree and a second by Mayor Sprouse. The approval was unanimous.

Director Willis discussed the 2021 NWAEDD Budget which was recommended to the board for approval by the Executive Committee. Chairman Weaver asked for roll call for approval of the 2021 NWAEDD Budget. Motion carried.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item of business was the approval of the Employee Personnel Handbook. Chairman Weaver asked for roll call for approval of the handbook. Motion carried without dissent.

Chairman Weaver stated that the next item of business was the approval of the NWAEDD Policies: Public Health Emergency, Employee Paid Leave and Telework. Chairman Weaver asked for roll call for approval of the presentation of the policies. Motion carried.

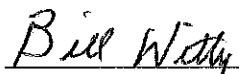
In the Executive Director's report Mr. Willis discussed the ongoing efforts surrounding the building of a new headquarters for the District. He also commended the NATS staff for its work on the frontlines of the pandemic continuing to transport clients and noted for the board the loss of one of the District's drivers to COVID as well as the spouse of one of the District's WIOA employees. He informed the board of the pending retirement of Beverly Taylor and commended her on her performance and value to the District.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mayor McKinney. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Date: 1/29/2021



Secretary

Date: 4-1-2021