



BOARD MEETING MINUTES – November 13, 2017

PRESENT: Billy Whisenant, Kirby Andrews, Gil Cherry, Carolyn Lawrence, Jerod Peek, David Vela, Ken Becker, Larissa Place, Joseph Grant

CALL TO ORDER: 10:30 AM by Billy Whisenant

PRAYER: Ken Becker

ACTION ITEMS:

MINUTES: Board to review and consider approving minutes from the October 2017 meeting. Kirby Andrews made the motion to approve the minutes. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.

FINANCIALS: Board to review and consider approving the September 2017 financial statements. Jerod Peek made the motion to approve the financials. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Board to review and consider approving accounts payables. Carolyn Lawrence the motion to approve the accounts payables. Jerod Peek seconded. The motion carried.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIBABILITY INSURANCE:

Larissa Place presented three quotes from local agencies including current company. Billy Whisenant would like to get a quote from DMI insurance as well. Board agreed to table this item until next month to include DMI Insurance. Carolyn Lawrence applauded Larissa for the work done on this.

MDD & CITY MANAGER UPDATE (David Vela):

- MDD passed in the November election with 420 votes for (73%) and 155 votes against (27%)
- These numbers will be official tomorrow after the City Commission meeting
- Sweetwater's number were very similar to those in Brownwood
- Members of the ETJ did come out to vote
- There is a total of more than 6000 registered voters in Sweetwater and 575 voted.
- The City Commission must call the May election by February 16th
- If this passes the MDD would be established and current SEED dissolved. Commission would have to formally abolish SEED
- MDD will operate the same with the City handling finances and administrative duties.
- Legal has begun working on MDD
- Commissioners will approve the language for the May ballot
- Ken Becker asked how much time from the May election till MDD is in place
 - David Vela advised it will be on the Commission's May agenda, Comptroller's office will need to approve but it could be done by the June allocation
- Ken Becker asked if the current SEED Board will be asked to help with bylaws?
 - David Vela advised he believe they should have some input as well as lawyers
- Larissa Place asked if the Sweetwater Economic Development name and branding will need to be changed.
 - David Vela advised that is up to the Commissioners and lawyers. He texted the lawyers during the meeting and they feel it will need to be changed.
 - Carolyn Lawrence stated if the name does not include the Inc. then it should not need to be changed.
 - Jerod Peek advised he would be surprised if the Commissioners would want to change it.
- Sales tax is up 28.57% increase vs. last year allocation
- Businesses are increasing in sales
- Since May of last year, things have been positive for finances, for economy and unemployment rates are down
- Billy Whisenant asked for an update on the water tower
 - David Vela advised the new one will be online next week and the old one will be down by the end of December



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MARKETING/ADMIN UPDATE (Larissa Place): The board was updated on the following topics

- Speakers Bureau continues to be a success. Larry Place, Ricky Thompson, Brian Frieda are all scheduled at all four schools. Still working on some scheduling for additional presenters.
- Sweetwater Economic Development sent out letters to Elected Officials asking for support in speeding up with the approval process for the RPMH Dialysis Unit. This can take up to 24 months. Brady set a precedence when they got theirs approved in 2 months. RPMH is asking for the same consideration.
 - We will send out the contact information for those that want to also send letters
- Sweetwater Economic Development Christmas party has been planned for Tuesday December 12th at 6:30pm at the Country Club. Please let Larissa or Ken know if this date does not work for you.
- We have ordered Christmas cards and will begin sending those out shortly. If there is anyone or any business you would like included be sure to let Larissa and Ken know.
- Larissa would like to know how the Board feels about advertising on the Fireman's Association T-shirts at the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup again this year. The Board agreed to not do it again this year.

EXEC DIR. UPDATE (Ken Becker): The board was updated on the following topics:

- The West Texas Manufacturing sector partnership with Workforce is currently a 19 county region. USG and Ludlum Measurements are leading companies in this group.
 - The manufacturing companies have been asked to put together a list of their needs. In the past the training providers have been the ones to set up the needs where it hasn't really matched with the industry needs.
 - USG has brought a lot to the table. They will host the next meeting.
 - Healthcare in Abilene has made things difficult in this sector. The two major entities don't want to agree.
 - Support partners for the manufacturing sector are RISD, TSTS and SEED
- We have sent some questions back to CDS regarding the Housing Survey. They are currently working on some of those questions and cleaning up the report and will get the final over to us.
 - Some folks may not like or agree with what it says but it is a report stating what they believe is best not what we wanted to hear.
 - It does show that our blue color sector pay scale is much higher than most areas.
 - Do we want to have them come back for a formal presentation and who do we invite if we do?
 - The Board doesn't believe they need to come back for a presentation. If Ken puts together an executive summary that should be sufficient and we can invite the folks that came to the panel discussions in for a recap as well.
 - We will put the final document on the website
 - Carolyn advised this information can be very useful for future decision if the MDD is put in place
 - Ken advised the Board can review the executive summary
 - David Vela mentioned the Parks Plan is on the City's website
- IPS is a new company in Sweetwater. They are located on E Broadway. They work on electronics for wind turbines. They have leased their building. They are located all over the U.S. and based in North or South Carolina. Ken will try to visit with the local manager.

Board to consider entering Executive Session. Carolyn Lawrence made the motion to move into Executive Session. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURN

Board to consider adjourning. Gil Cherry made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.