



BOARD MEETING MINUTES – March 12, 2018

**PRESENT:** Billy Whisenant, Carolyn Lawrence, Jerod Peek, Gil Cherry, Kirby Andrews, David Vela, Mark Rushing, Officer Danny Heine, Kirk Harris, Cathrine Wilks, Ken Becker, Larissa Place, Stacy Fritz

**CALL TO ORDER:** 10:28 AM by Billy Whisenant

**PRAYER:** Kirby Andrews

**PRESENTATION:** Cathrine Wilks presented the 2017 Audit Report

- Audited the statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development for the years ending September 30, 2017 and 2016 and the related notes.
- Opinion – The financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects.
- Excess of cash receipts over cash disbursements \$511,791.00.
- SEED capital assets, net ending balance \$843,451

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**MINUTES:** Board to review and consider approving minutes from the February 2018 meeting. Carolyn Lawrence made the motion to approve the minutes. Jerod Peek seconded. The motion carried.

**FINANCIALS:** Board to review and consider approving the January 2018 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. Kirby Andrews made the motion to approve the accounts payables. Gil Cherry seconded. The motion carried.

**2017 Audit Report:** Board to review and consider approving 2017 Audit Report presented by Cathrine Wilks. Jerod Peek made the motion to approve the 2017 Audit Report. Kirby Andrews seconded. The motion carried.

**TEXAS COMMUNITIES GROUP:** Billy Whisenant asked each Board Member and City Manager for questions and/or comments on the Texas Communities Group contract.

- Jerod Peek – He would like to have TCG present their program to the City Commissioners. He is reluctant to rush into this and wouldn't mind the contract being between TCG and the City vs. TCG and SEED. He feels the City Commissioners need to be up to speed on this project and possibly wait for the MDD.
- Carolyn Lawrence – Agrees with Jerod Peek. Excited to get this going but will wait for the City's review. Believes the contract can be with the City and have SEED fund it. Events like the USG Board coming to Sweetwater is a big deal and feels we need to have this project happen to improve our community. Hates for the USG Board to see the substandard structures we have in our town.
- David Vela – The City is on board with cleaning up the city. The landfill project will help. The Commissioners have agreed to buy the new trackloader. Feels like TCG could possibly broaden the scope of the contract as long as SEED is still willing to foot the bill. Also, when SEED becomes a MDD, they could fund the salary for another code enforcement officer.
- Billy Whisenant – What timeframe for the Commissioners to review this program?
- David Vela – they can put it on the April agenda
- Jerod Peek – SEED won't exist in May if voting goes through. Attorney can advise on dates but this could potentially go through in May.
- Billy Whisenant – We don't need to wait for the MDD, this can be a SEED or MDD project. That shouldn't hold it up.
- Jerod Peek – Agrees but if MDD does happen this it should be under MDD.

Gil Cherry made the motion to table the vote on the Texas Communities Group. Jerod Peek seconded. The motion carried.



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**SALES AND USE TAX UPDATE (Mark Rushing, Assistant City Comptroller):** The board was updated on the following:

- Comparative for payment. This FY is on average \$33,000 more vs. last FY.
- Net increase budget \$2.85 M
- Amount above budget \$21,233.57
- 13.83% above last month for sales tax
  - Comptrollers office have called asking why. Mostly due to construction.
- State Comptroller adjustments of \$9748.33
- Bottom line is Industry in Sweetwater is doing well.

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

- We held the USDA homeowners workshop on March 5<sup>th</sup>. It was held at Argos from 6:00-7:30. SEED funded the event with the rental space and coffee and cookies. There was a good turnout. About 15 people came. All were very engaged and asking great questions. The USDA Representative Cheryl has commented many times about this being one, if not the best, events she has had. We all agree we would like to have these events 1-2 times a year.
- SEED will be hosting a reception for Rick Denbow and his wife to congratulate him on being named the Provost at TSTS West Texas. It will be held at the Sweetwater Country Club on Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm.
- The Chamber has asked SEED to host the Quality of Life tour for Leadership Sweetwater. We hosted the day for Leadership a couple months ago. This will be on Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Drug Prevention Program for SISD. Ricky Thompson has visited with SISD and they have a resource officer Moses Campa. He will be trained on a program called HOME for K-8<sup>th</sup> grades. The program will be funded by seized funds. Dr. McFarland is on board with this. They are also in the process of hiring another school resource officer. The City and SISD have approved the position, they are waiting for the Police Dept. to fill the role. Then 2 officers could be trained to teach the HOME program. We will need to put something together for the High School. Plan to meet with Ricky Thompson, Dr. McFarland and Chamber about creating something for the High School. I have already spoken to Kirk Maberry who is more than willing to speak to the kids.

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

- GFS – still looking into Foreign Trade Zone options. Also, Ken sent out an email showing an article with GFS and Vietnam. They will be manufacturing decking board.
- SISD – Dr. McFarland and staff went on manufacturing tour and pressed the issue of not every kid will go to college. We took them to USG, Ludlums and Buzzi. EMA was on the agenda but it will have to be rescheduled due to the concern at SMS. USG pays \$20.97/hour for someone with a GED or High School degree. Manufacturing jobs are going to have to become automated if the workforce doesn't go up. Ken and Dr. McFarland will be attending a manufacturing conference in Waco.
- TxDot – I20 and 84 interchange in Roscoe. Option A would widen out the road in order to have straighter lines. Option B is more narrow. This would be a major redo instead of more band aids. This project is slated for 2021-2022. Carolyn asked how long the project would take. Ken advised a timeline was not given. TxDOT is currently working on the Walmart access road contracts. They are still talking about one way access roads in front of Walmart.
- MDD – Due to the May 5<sup>th</sup> election concerning the MDD we would like to move our May 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to the 7<sup>th</sup>. It would be after the election but before the City Council meeting. We could take rules of engagement to SEED Board, then City Commission. Hope to have those rules ready by those two meetings. Committee will be meeting soon.
- Icy Breeze – Ken got them a booth at the Rattlesnake Roundup. 75% of their components are manufactured at Ludlums. Next 6-12 months they are hoping 90% will be from Ludlums.
- Regional Job Fair – this will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and there are already local companies involved.
- UPRR – Attended a meeting in Midland, Safety on Highways. Discussed a woman who survived a train collision. She spent 1 year in the hospital. 80% of train wrecks are with lights or gates functioning. 20% of those are cars running into a moving train. Every 6 hours a wreck with a train occurs.
- Oil/Gas – U.S. has 800 oil Rigs. 50% are in the Permian Basin
- Dialysis Center – It has been inspected and certified. They are waiting for the letter at this time. This has been the fastest to get certified in TX being 28 days. This can take up to 18 months. Colorado City is now closed and at least half of the patients may be coming to Sweetwater.



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**EXEC DIR. UPDATE (Ken Becker):** Continued

- Texas Education Agency Meeting – Long range planning meeting for. Workforce Board in Abilene funded trip. TX has grown 3.1 Million people since the 2010 census. 14% live West of I35. Our high schools rank #5 in the nation but #29 in college readiness. TX teen birth rate is top 5 in the U.S. TX economy is 16<sup>th</sup> Nationally. 30<sup>th</sup> in overall healthcare. 41<sup>st</sup> in PreK-12 in Education.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Kirby Andrews made the motion to go into Executive Session. Jerod Peek seconded. The motion carried.

**REGULAR SESSION:** Jerod Peek made the motion to re-enter Regular Session. Carolyn Lawrence seconded. The motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

Board to consider adjourning. Kirby Andrews made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gil Cherry seconded. The motion carried.