

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MAY 9, 2017
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at the ETHRA Offices in Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Johnny Merritt, Mayor of Luttrell
E.L. Morton, Campbell County Mayor
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive
Don Mull, Mayor of Alcoa
Terry Wolfe, Mayor of Bean Station
Bill Brittain, Hamblen County Mayor
Dale Perdue, Scott County Mayor
Larry Waters, Sevier County Mayor
Roland Dykes, III, Member at Large

Guests

Gary Holiway, ETHRA
Sarah Fansler, Knox County
Mark Potts, Mayor of Jefferson City
Jane Jolley, Senator Bob Corker's Office
Debbie Sudhoff, ADC

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Terry Frank called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Chairman Terry Frank presented the minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting to the Executive Committee for approval. Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, it was seconded by Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending March 31, 2017 was presented by Roane County Executive Ron Woody. Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe made the motion to accept the report as presented and it was seconded by City of Alcoa Mayor Don Mull and it was approved by all.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Terry Bobrowski, ETDD Executive Director, gave his Director's report:

Grants Update

There are several items to report on:

Our grant application work has slowed considerably from previous months.

A couple of smaller but very important public safety grants are on the horizon. These are the COPS, SAFER and Bullet Proof Vest grant programs. The SAFER program provides funds to hire firemen at the local level. There is no match but the community has to agree to maintain the position after the two year grant period has expired. The COPS program is essentially the same except it provides funding for police officers, deputies or public safety officers. Also available is the Bullet Proof Vest program. This is just what it sounds like – grant funds are provided to purchase bullet proof vest for local law enforcement agencies. There is a 50/50 cost sharing requirement. All three of these programs should be opening up for applications in the very near future.

Our Emergency Repair Program for the Elderly is winding down for this year. We are finishing up projects in Sevier, Anderson and Campbell counties and this should draw down all remaining funds that are available. We do a really good job with this program and in the next fiscal year

starting July 1, we expect that THDA will again award us a grant in the amount of \$300,000. We have some great local partners out there and we expect to obligate most of this money very quickly.

Just to provide an update on federal funding, the final budget numbers for FY 2017 include level funding for the CDBG program and the Economic Development Administration. The Appalachian Regional Commission actually received a \$6 million dollar increase. This will preserve funding for these program through September 30, 2017. What happens in the 2018 budget process is anybody's guess. The position that the White House is taking for these programs and several others such as EPA Brownfields, Rural Development Water and Sewer is to zero them out. No funding was requested for any of these programs. In total, the proposed 2018 federal budget shows \$54 billion in cuts to domestic programs.

The CDBG program remains the only viable public infrastructure program that is available to communities so it is extremely important that we advocate for this program whenever we have discussions with federal legislators. We have heard that the Trump budget will zero out the CDBG program as well as the ARC program and the Economic Development Administration. I have not seen the actual budget yet but it is clear that our traditional infrastructure grant programs will be at risk.

Retail Academy Update

We are very pleased that the State Department of Economic and Community Development is moving forward with several of their rural development initiatives. One initiative is the asset planning grant program for distressed counties. Each of our five distressed counties will be receiving up to \$50,000 from ECD for a small economic development project that addresses a local need. ETDD is preparing all five grant applications and the grant proposals range from the construction of a river access facility to hooking up college age students to broadband.

Another exciting opportunity for Tier 4 counties is the chance to participate in the Retail Academy training course. The course will involve an intense one day training session that will include:

- Demographic Research – historical, current, and projected demographics – to include market trade areas by radius and drive time geographies
- Retail Gap Analysis
- Retail Peer Analysis – By identifying communities across the United States that “look” like the market area, you are able to determine both retailers and retail concepts that have proven their interest in similar communities and market areas.
- Community Marketing Guide – Including a Retail Aerial Map; Consultant will make no changes to the community fliers after this contract expires within one week of the workshop date; if participating cities want changes made to their fliers post workshop there will be a fee associated with the work.

- Identification of Retail Prospects
- One annual International Council of Shopping Centers membership per community
- Education on Retail Recruitment Implementation

The value of the training is \$10,000 per community and ECD is picking up the entire tab. There actually will be nine communities that participate in the training. ETDD will be managing the training session at the local level and will be the actual contracting agency for the service delivery. The session will take place on June 6th at the Blount County campus of Pellissippi State Community College.

Economic Development Program Overview

I mainly focus on our community development programs when I report to the Executive Committee but I want to bring you up to date on our economic development program work. We are extensively involved with every economic development organization in our region. In our more urban counties this is normally the industrial board such as in Knox and Blount counties or an economic development coalition such as those in Loudon, Roane, Sevier, Anderson and Cocke. In smaller communities it may be the local government official such as the city or county mayor that we work with. We have extensive expertise with grant application and grant administration work in the economic development field and the regional staff of ECD relies on us to provide these services to local governments whenever an economic development project is started. The largest project on our work plan right now is administration of a \$5 million dollar grant to Denso in Blount County, but we are also administering significant projects in Anderson County, Sevier County, Loudon County and Monroe County. We recently submitted funding applications to support new projects in Loudon and Lenoir City and we have been asked to administer a new site development grant in Knox County.

Our economic development work is a big part of the benefit that we provide to our member local governments and we are very proud to be able to provide a service that is meaningful and cost effective to our members.

Calendar Matters

Several meetings are coming up that I wanted to make sure that you are aware of:

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for June 13th here at the ETHRA offices.

We have also scheduled our Annual Awards Banquet for Thursday, July the 13th – we will be going to a new facility called the Venue in Lenoir City for our event this year.

Other Business

Mr. Terry Bobrowski introduced Debbie Sudhoff with our staff. Debbie is a business development officer and does a great job for us. Debbie will provide an overview of a proposed loan project in Dandridge that requires your approval.

The purpose of the loan is funding a loan to Holly E. Long in the amount of \$154,537.82 to build a boat storage facility located on Highway 25/70 in Dandridge. She is proposing to build a steel building on the property that will serve as an indoor/outdoor facility that will store RV's, boats, jet skis, etc. Total cost of this project is around \$386,000. We are partnering with Sevier County Bank who will be providing \$193,000 and Ms. Long will be providing \$38,000.

Ms. Chairman, I would ask that a motion be offered to approve this loan project. A motion was made to approve the loan by Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain, it was seconded by Town of Bean Station Mayor Terry Wolfe and approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.