

**EAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 13, 2025  
MINUTES**

The East Tennessee Development District's Executive Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at Rothchild's Catering and Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Brian Langley, Morgan County Executive  
Glenn Jacobs, Knox County Mayor  
Rob Mathis, Cocke County Mayor  
Joe Brooks, Claiborne County Mayor  
Chris Cutshaw, Hamblen County Mayor  
Mark Potts, Jefferson County Mayor  
Roland "Trey" Dykes, III, Mayor of Newport  
Neal Pucciarelli, Mayor of Cumberland Gap  
Ron Williams, Mayor of Farragut  
Richard Briggs, State Senator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Brian Langley called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

Meeting Recorder did a roll call to collect meeting attendees, and a quorum was reached.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Brian Langley asked for any changes to the posted agenda. There were none, so he called for a motion to approve today's Meeting Agenda. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion, it was seconded by Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli and approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Langley asked for any changes to the last meeting's Minutes, dated April 8, 2025. No changes were noted, so he called for a motion to approve them. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion, it was seconded by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts, and the minutes were approved by all.

## **SENATE, HOUSE & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Langley opened the floor to any public comments and asked if any House or State representatives would like to say anything, Senator Briggs let the group know that the state is monitoring how federal funding is going to affect issues at the state level. Senator Briggs said that as of now they do not have any answers yet, but that they will continue to monitor and share findings.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Secretary Rob Mathis presented the financials for March 2025 pointing out that during the month expenses exceeded revenues by \$69,675.34 this included third quarter invoices for RPO, THC, TDEC, and Solid Waste Grants. Secretary Mathis also mentioned that the revenues for March were boosted by the ERP and Go Places Programs. Secretary Mathis then pointed out that this is that March is the ninth month of the year and end of the third quarter, at this time the year-to-date revenues are almost 121% of budget and expenses are at 117% of budget. Secretary Mathis said that based on the numbers ETDD is on course to finish the fiscal year strong with a solid foundation to start the 2026 fiscal year.

Chairman Langley called for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli made the motion, it was seconded by Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams and approved by all.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Rick Yakubic, ETDD Executive Director, started off his report by asking for authorization to allow the Chair and Secretary to sign off on the Resolution for the loan ratification approved at the April 8, 2025 meeting. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli and approved by all.

Mr. Yakubic then presented the proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year that increases by about \$580,000 with almost \$200,000 coming from Go Places because according to the Department of Labor North Carolina had to move some of their monies to ETDD and another \$100,000 coming from the new EDA Disaster Recover Grant. Other changes for upcoming year include the ERP Recovery Program increasing to \$45,000, the state funds should be increasing by about \$50,000, and the ARPA admin and grant administration increasing about \$150,000. Mr. Yakubic explained that salaries and direct program expenses will also be increasing to reflect the new programs and cover cost of living and merit step increases. Executive Director Yakubic pointed out that it is a balanced budget for the 2026 fiscal year with about \$1,000 difference between revenues and expenses. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts and approved by all.

Executive Director Yakubic then presented the proposed Work Program for the upcoming year with no significant changes from the previous years but noted there are a couple of added programs. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts and approved by all.

The next item in Mr. Yakubic's report is the Local Assessments for the upcoming 2026

fiscal year, he noted that they have not changed in the last three years but still need to be approved. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion to approve, it was seconded by Town of Cumberland Gap Mayor Neal Pucciarelli and approved by all.

Mr. Yakubic then moved on to his next item, the proposed COLA and Merit/Step salary increases for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Yakubic explained that he is proposing a 5% COLA adjustment and for the three to four people due a step adjustment for their position an average of about 3%. Executive Director Yakbubic then pointed out that the net effect would be an increase of \$32,970.00 after staffing changes and that number does include the proposed salaries. Mr. Yakubic pointed out that he listed the salaries on the proposed budget sheet at \$1.3 million because there is going to be a salary added mid-year of about \$41,582, but he is not sure where that funding is coming from yet because there is an ARC Grant that they are currently trying to get. Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams made the motion to approve, it was seconded by City of Newport Mayor Trey Dykes and approved by all.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Langley asked if anyone had any other business to discuss, there was nothing else.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Town of Farragut Mayor Ron Williams.