

Executive/Economic Development Meeting
Logan County Safety Complex
February 11, 2013

Present: David Hepler-Chairman; Bob Farmer; Rick Aylesworth; Chuck Ruben; Gene Rohlfs

Absent: Bill Martin

Guests:

Mr. Hepler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Aylesworth, seconded by Mr. Ruben, to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2013 meeting as printed. Motion passed.

Old Business

- 1) Board policy revisions: A proposed revision to Board policies was distributed and reviewed. Changes include revisions to the names of the two full Board monthly meetings and elimination of straw voting. Under this proposal, the current Board of Whole meeting would be known as the Workshop meeting and the Adjourned meeting would be known as the Regular meeting. Since straw votes are non-binding and could change, the sub-committee recommended elimination of that vote. Committee chairmen have also been asked to provide summaries of the duties of their committee so that could be included in this document as well. Members were asked to review the proposal and provide written feedback for consideration at the March meeting.
- 2) CEDS: The committee discussed additional costs in the future for participation in CEDS. It is not entirely clear what exactly that cost might be. Mr. Rohlfs referenced discussions in 2011 concerning costs at the time the application was accepted. During those discussions, the approximate cost was indicated to be \$7500 to \$10,000, with an additional annual cost of \$5000. The County has been putting \$5000 into that fund for several years, but those funds were already used for expenses of the partnership. The County's current payments are being held in a dedicated fund for our benefit. The committee discussed seeking clarification on the County's cost before the resolution approved at the previous committee meeting is presented to the full Board for approval. The committee decided to move it forward to the full Board and seek additional information at that time.

New Business

- 1) Downtown TIF status: Mr. Ruben updated the committee on the efforts by the City of Lincoln to establish a TIF district downtown. There are three businesses in the proposed district that are currently in the enterprise zone. They are being consulted to determine whether they wish to remain in the enterprise zone or participate in the TIF. Formation of the TIF will cap the property taxes. Any increase in property values within the TIF would go into the TIF district and those funds could be used for further improvements in the district. The life of a TIF is 23 years. The group has estimated revenues of \$6 million in TIF funds. This could result in a loss of approximately \$60,000 to the County annually. Mr. Ruben expressed his opinion that he believes the growth would be smaller and the impact to the County would be less. They have indicated those funds would not be used for construction of a new fire station. The City believes this could benefit the County by stopping the decline in property values, which has caused a decline in tax revenue. Mr. Ruben shared that Mr. Bagby has reservations in supporting the idea. Mr. Rohlfs questioned whether schools might be allowed to opt out of participation in the TIF district. That question has not been discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Rohlfs, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 7:59 pm.