

MINUTES OF THE DUCHESNE COUNTY ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 20, 2024, BEGINNING AT 1:30 P.M. IN DUCHESNE, UT, AS WELL AS ON ZOOM

Present -

Irene Hansen, Cody Ivie, Jennifer Adams, Deborah Herron, Lezlee Whiting, Lori Haslem with GOEO, and Commission Executive Assistant Melissa Hughes

Attending & Participating via Zoom –

Tyson Stewart and John Zilles

Opening Comments & Welcome

Commissioner Hansen welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from July 19, 2024, Meeting

Jenny Adams made a motion to approve the July 19, 2024, minutes as presented. Cody Ivie seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Discussion & Consideration of the 2024/2025 Grant Priorities

Commissioner Hansen started the discussion with the two priorities being Thompsen House of Hope and the business grants.

Lori Haslem with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) said that with the grant, the State likes to see job creation, education, and just about everything else that helps businesses. The State appreciates what Duchesne County is doing and has used it as an example for other Counties.

Tyson Stewart explained he has started using a hiring website, which has increased applications by 30%. He wonders if the grant could pay for this service to help some of the businesses hire employees.

John Zilles likes the hiring platform suggestion. He wonders if there is training for retention, not just for management. He also suggests basic office software training.

Lezlee Whiting said UB Tech offers Excel workshops in Vernal. If there is enough interest, they could hold one in Roosevelt.

The parties discussed other training and institutions. UBTech Custom Fit is seeing more small businesses and counseling/therapy interest. They are hearing that residents are nervous about the economy's uncertainty and possible recession.

The parties discussed the housing crisis. From Duchesne to Fruitland, the area is considered sheltered homeless, and some of the residents live in camp trailers. UB Tech is starting to build tiny homes.

The parties discussed allowing businesses to reapply for the matching grant and limiting the amount they could receive.

Deborah Herron would like to receive all the business applications by the end of the year and review them at the same time. The business would then be asked to complete a survey about what the grant has done for it and whether it has been able to hire and retain employees.

Lezlee Whiting made a motion to approve the priorities as outlined in today's meeting. Jenny Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Discussion of the Next Meeting Date and Time

The parties discussed emailing to coordinate the next meeting date and time.

Adjournment

John Zilles made a motion to adjourn at 2:47 p.m. Cody Ivie seconded the motion. The forum adjourned.