

Emery County Economic Opportunity (CEO) Board

Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 2024 @ 3:30 p.m.

Emery County Courthouse, Commission Conference Room
75 East Main Street, Castle Dale, Utah 84513

In Attendance:

Board Members: Nicole Steele (online), Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Patsy Stoddard, Laren Huntsman, Ren Hatt (online).

Others: Natalie Olsen, Debra McKee with GOEO (online).

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

1. Welcome - Nicole Steele

Nicole Steele welcomed everyone to the Emery County Economic Opportunity Board meeting.

2. Discuss/Approve/Deny - County Economic Opportunity Board Meeting Minutes November 6th, 2024 Minutes

Patsy had some corrections to the minutes that were emailed. Also, we need to reschedule the November meeting. It was decided to move it to November 18th, 2025.

Patsy made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections received via email with a second from Ren. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny - Open Board position for a Mayor or city council member.

The bylaws were read on what the board needed to consist of. It was determined that we are covered as far as the bylaws go but it might be nice to have a member at large. It was determined that it needed to be advertised and then put on agenda at a later date.

Laren made a motion to approve the advertising for a community member at large with a second from Patsy. Voting was unanimous.

4. Discuss/Approve/Deny - FY 2025 Rural County Grant- Emery County Economic Development Projects.

Laren said his thoughts are that we need to understand if there are any other Economic activities that the county would like to initiate. He would hate to have all the money earmarked someplace else and not have the freedom to have funding if there was something in the works.

Commissioner Leonard said our next project is the Master Plan for the Industrial Park north of the Research Center. There are businesses interested in that area. We are looking to develop that and partner with the research center to build and put businesses in there. We just need a full Master plan, which is a big one. Roughly \$80,000-\$100,000 to get done. We did write a grant for the Master Plan and that grant was not awarded to us. The Industrial Park is in an Inland Port and will be able to help support us. Commissioner Leonard would like to talk to the other Commissioners and see what they are wanting to do as far as wanting to contract a head hunter or go a different direction.

Patsy asked if any of the funds coming back from the Research center could be used for the Master plan? Jordan said that would need to be done through Budget meeting.

Debra wanted to mention it was her understanding that the grant that was applied for and not awarded will be better applied for once it's a little further along. If the Master plan is in place it will be easier for us to get an application in for a different part of the project.

Patsy said we had 30 applicants that applied for the Business Improvement Grant program and have \$115,000.00. These are 30 businesses that are here in Emery County, paying taxes in Emery County, expanding in Emery County and we have some of them that are putting up buildings in Emery County. We were only able to help new applications (17) because the funds are limited so anything we can do to help all these businesses would be greatly appreciated. It has been stated in previous meetings that if more funding is needed for this program that Patsy needed to come to the board so that's what she is doing today.

Laren said he thinks we should move forward with the Master Plan and maybe those bids come in less and that might open up a little that can go toward the Business Improvement grant.

Commissioner Leonard said he wants to support every single local business you can with the right plan so he is behind Patsy 110%. Also behind the Master Plan 110%.

Nicole stated that she thinks everyone is behind both projects, as a board we have to decide what is the best project for the funds now.

Laren made a motion that the grant money be allocated for the Master Plan but ask that the county look for additional funding in other places and if funding is found in additional places then that would free up money for other opportunities for businesses with a second from Ren. An affirmative vote from Laren, Jordan and Ren, opposed by Patsy. Motion passes.

5. Other Business:

Nothing.

Next meeting date: April 8th @ 3:00 pm. Natalie will send a calendar reminder and invite.

6. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned.
