

Emery County Economic Opportunity (CEO) Board

Meeting Minutes

April 8th, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.

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

In Attendance:

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

Others: Natalie Olsen, Debra McKee with GOEO

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 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 February 12th, 2025 Minutes

Patsy made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of putting Debra and Nicole as attending virtually with a second from Brock . The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss/Approve/Deny - Changing November's meeting minutes:

There was an email sent out asking if November's meeting could be changed to November 18th, Commission meeting is that same day and time. We need to come up with a different day in November to have the meeting.

Ren made a motion to change the November meeting to the 12th of November with a second from Commissioner Leonard. Voting was unanimous.

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

- a. **Discuss Industrial Park Master Plan:** Jordan said we had discussed in the past using the RCG to fund the master plan up at the Industrial Park. We have gotten funding elsewhere so there are RCG funds available again.
- b. **Consideration of additional funds for the 2025 Business Improvement Grant program: Patsy:** There were 30 Business grant applicants for 2025. 17 of those businesses were awarded funds. \$6,705.88 went to each business for a total of \$114,000 and \$1,000 to the Business Chamber for administrative costs. One application of the 30 didn't qualify. There are 12 businesses that are on hold right now. If those 12 businesses received the \$6,705.88 like we gave the previous businesses for the year that would total \$80,470.56. There have also been a few other businesses that have approached Patsy wondering if there would be a second application period.

Patsy did say she loved the way we did the program this year, giving priority to the businesses that had never received grant funding before. And that every business got the same amount of money. Patsy suggested allocating the remaining \$95,000 toward hiring a headhunter or contractor to begin making an impact in Economic Development, as her proposal to use the funds for Business Improvement was voted down."

Brock said he would get some names to Natalie and Commissioner Leonard and they can see if that is an option. Brock said \$95,000 is plenty to start with.

Patsy asked If the Commissioners find someone, can the CEO board call a special meeting or just put it on the Commission agenda so we can move forward.

Brock made a motion that some of the \$95,000 be used for Business recruitment and we are open to a contract being negotiated if the commission finds companies for the job with a second from Patsy. Voting was unanimous.

- c. **Consideration of funding for the former Weed and Mosquito building to make needed repairs to the garage door and possibly put in a sink/toilet in the building. (This is an incubator building for businesses needing a place to begin their business. The building currently houses two businesses).** There are two start up businesses in the building. There needs to be a roll up door that is safer than the one that is there now. Emery County owns the building. Jordan said it was the old Weed and Mosquito shop and office. Once Weed and Mosquito left the building, the school Robotics team moved into that building. When the school left that building, SERDA managed the building and had an agreement with Jam Walls to be in the building. The county didn't renew their contract with SERDA managing the building and the county took it over. The county is now trying to make it an incubator business development building. There are businesses in each building but

the one building doesn't have a bathroom in it and the garage door needs to be fixed. There are no quotes, Patsy wanted to know if it would even be a possibility to have the board fund something like this before she went and got quotes. Nicole was wondering if the board can even say they will put money towards it until they know quotes and cost. Commissioner Leonard said the goal of the county is to keep the buildings occupied so they don't get dilapidated, and have businesses in there to maintain the buildings. Brock suggested maybe sell the building if the county has no use for the building.

Nicole asked Commissioner Leonard what the plans for Economic Development are? Commissioner Leonard said there are a lot of things in the works. He doesn't think there are plans in the future to hire a director. Commissioner Leonard would like to hire an Economic Development contractor. There were several in agreement with that. Brock said we definitely need to get some Business recruitment into the county. Jordan thought it might be good to roll over \$50,000 to have seed money for this fall. Then potentially allocate more money from next year's grant.

Debra said that GOEO has rolled out a new program called The Blue Print program. It's essentially free Economic Development planning. Emery County has been selected to participate in the program. If Emery County decides to move forward in that program, they will have access to a staff member who will help in developing an entire economic development plan.

5. Other Business:

Debra said James Dixon and herself will be in Castle Dale next Tuesday at noon training the Commission on the grant programs and would love to have the CEO Board members there if possible. She is just extending the invite but knows there may be conflicts, so totally fine if the board can't be there. She will send a google invite.

We are still looking for someone to fill the empty seat on this board.

Next meeting date: November 12th @ 3:00 pm. Natalie sent a calendar reminder and invite.

6. Adjourn:

Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Leonard. Voting was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned.
