

**Leavenworth County Port Authority
Board of Directors
16 January 2024
Noon – Zoom/In-Person**

Attendees: Dirck Hoagland, John Richmeier, Chris Donnelly, George Brajkovic, Vicky Kaaz, Greg Kaaz, Lisa Haack, Mary Mack, Dan Clemons, Diana Dodd, Dan Gutshall, Vernon Fields, Tom Cole, Maddie Waldeck, Leslee Rivarola, David Schroeder, Krystal Voth, Paul Kramer, Doug Schimke

Chris called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Motion to approve the November minutes by Doug Schimke and seconded by Dan Clemons. All in favor.

Motion to approve the November financial reports by David Schroeder and seconded by Doug Schimke. All in favor

Motion to approve the December financial report by David Schroeder and seconded by Doug Schimke. All in favor.

Mentioned that the payment for 4th Quarter funding from the County was not received until January. Will have accountant make the adjustment to show in 2023.

LCDC Report

- Lisa gave the LCDC Report which included new and ongoing projects:
 - Project Marathon – did not submit. Looking for existing buildings or greenfield site for facility.
 - Project Lightyear – Did not submit. Looking for greenfield site, minimum 300 acres.
 - Project Wildcard– Minimum of 150 contiguous acres for sale. Greenfield preferred. Did not submit.
 - Project Irvine – interest in First City Center for a client. Sent info and reached out to owners.
 - Project Topaz – financial company looking for existing Class A space of 60k, 90k or 150k. Did not submit
 - Project Aura – interested in KC region to construct entertainment facility. On hold, looking at other regions.
 - Project Soar – interested in Tonganoxie Business Park. Working with State and City. Decision by end of year.
 - Stated 56 leads in 2023, 1 location - DSM
- She mentioned the IT changes from NCS to SorWil. Added additional TV in conference room, owl mounted from ceiling as well as new phone system.
- Annual Meeting – have 160 registered attending, speaker Kyle Vena
- She will be scheduling her marketing trips, looking to meet with cities to provide updates
- Doing a county tour of German representatives from Dept. of Commerce
- She and Diana are attending Legislative Day in Topeka on 1 February.
- Talked about opportunity through LV Times to provide article on LCDC. Asked if interested in a half page to talk about LCPA. Good to start the education process in preparation for the future funding campaign. Talked about distribution and where it would benefit most. Consensus all in support. **Motion made by Dan Clemons to purchase the half page along with LCDC for a full-page ad for marketing purposes. Seconded by David Schroeder. All in favor.** Diana volunteered to write the article, will ask if they can get in digital form as well.

Industrial Site Committee: Last meeting cancelled. Waiting to hear from representatives regarding rail before wrapping up and starting to put together the scoring criteria.

Long Term Funding – Greg gave a short presentation on discussion points regarding future funding. Went over several options from current funding option, mill rate dedicated to LCPA, fund raising campaign from private businesses and revenue from leases. He talked about the pros and cons of some. If doing the mill rate, education is key, would require getting on ballot for vote, possibly in 2025. Wanting to find out how other economic development agencies are funded and their processes. Would like to share the information in the discussion points with government officials.

Other: Greg stated that the announcements on projects for the transportation plan should be made by KDOT by the end of January.

Affiliated Partner updates given.

Adjourn 12:55 p.m.