



Go Topeka Board Meeting
April 7, 2020

Dan Foltz called to order at 3:00 pm

Motion Consent Agenda

Motion to approve February 2nd meeting minutes and seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to approve January and February financial statements.

M. Pivarnik provided a quick update of financials – COVID 19 impact to the GTP may be a little severe since we're not included in government assistance plans since we are a 501c6. There are organizations are working hard to get us included and we're working on our application in case that does happen. We've had to make some difficult decisions due to a slow down in our revenue, and we are working with Mark Yardley to come up with a plan to get us through this. Full furloughs and half furloughs are in place, and 7 open positions have created about a 30% reduction in headcount. Non-furloughed employees are taking a 10-40% pay cut so we can be solvent.

Continue motion to approve and seconded. Motion carried.

Project Update

New business activity – 18 new active projects since January 1, with three in the last two weeks.

Project Choose and Project Bulldog, now called Project Urban, are still moving forward.

Walmart has been announced but still heavy in easements and other land/legal matters.

BRE – still moving on existing approved projects, still reaching out to local employers to see how they are doing and letting them know we are here.

Small Business Update

Some businesses are not taking advantage of Federal assistant options because they don't think they apply to them. We are calling on SBDC to reach small businesses in the community, and the SBDC is getting a lot of traffic. We are planning a virtual networking and informational meeting for small businesses in the community, meeting individually with minority business owners, and providing education to business owners. Federal funds are going fast, Washington is already talking about a 2nd stimulus. Be sure to check out supporttopeka.com to see what resources are there, and encourage people to get their applications in for the government funded paycheck protection program as well

Innovation Update

John Keddy from Security Benefit gave an overview of Plug and Play and a recap of the PnP event on March 3rd. Attended by 150 venture capitalists and the leader of PNP, the event was high energy and very informative. The goals of PNP are aligned with our goals of economic development, and in light of new challenges due to COVID 19, innovation is even more important. Topeka is now a part of the global innovation community, all sourced to solve problems as a network. There is a strong case of how solutions can be created quickly and cheaply through innovation to get through this pandemic. Topeka accelerator program is scheduled to launch this year and is fully on track. Katrin is recommending to the IAB board that we start our accelerator program virtually until we can officially launch in Topeka.

State of the Economy

We are working together with the city and county to put together an economic recovery plan. The data in the packet doesn't reflect the current county info.

Page 7 of packet – 97,000 workers in Topeka in 4th quarter with average wage of \$46,000, roughly 37,000 jobs below average. The yearly growth rate increased just under 1%, but after adjusting for inflation, wage growth rate is closer to 0%, long term trend is moving in right direction.

Page 10 of packet- Jan 2020 unemployment rate is 3.6% in the county, U.S. was 4.0%
In March the rate jumped up by 0.9%, which is the largest one month jump since 1975

Page 14 of packet – KS Dept of Labor Unemployment Insurance Weekly Review for the week ending March 28 2020: the number of claims grew by 131% from the previous week, from 23925 to 54428, one week prior to that the number increased by 1,214%.

Page 20 – Initial Claims by Industry – food service industry showing highest number of claims with manufacturing at 31%. These numbers represent the state totals.

Page 29 – Results of survey to show Workforce Changes due to COVID-19. – 71% don't expect a change in production or employees, most likely because Shawnee County has a lot of employers in the food service or production industries. 60% of our workforce is considered critical employment.

Workforce/Talent/BRE Updates

Choose Topeka – we are now up to 15 candidates and 3,362 resumes. Things are slowing down but still showing growth. We've had contact with the Dept of Labor who is willing to assist with workforce questions.

Host Relief Program

The HOST Program is complex with two components. The private side is funded by donors, working with Glenda and Molly to identify companies to purchase gift cards from that will be distributed to displaced workers with a value of \$250 per employee. If a business would like to be considered for the gift card program they can go to supporttopeka.com/host or let Molly know. If anyone would like to become a part of the donor group they can reach out to Molly or Matt and they will point them in the right direction.

The public side is funded by \$1 million set aside from JEDO and will be distributed as grants similar to small business incentives. The recipients must be a Shawnee County business, must have been established by March 13th, must demonstrate economic injury. There are 3 levels to the grants based on entity. Sole proprietorship is \$1,500, a business with 2 – 9 employees is \$3,000, 10-100 employees is \$5,000. Applications can begin 4/8 Spanish and English applications available and a call in number. Applications will go through a committee for approval. Matt Strathman has been involved in this as well as Deputy Mayor Tony Emerson.

Coronavirus/open discussion

Each day brings new challenges, yesterday USD 501 had to stop providing lunches.

Mayor gave an update of 501 food - in order to meet the requirements for breakfast and lunches, cost is \$3/sack, around \$228k for lunches, trying to work with state, commissioners and community so we can figure this out to continue to provide lunches, trying to figure out a solution by Monday. This dollar amount covers one month.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm

Minutes completed by Trina Goss