

## WOOD COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

July 5, 2018

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
East Texas Burger  
Mineola, Texas

### Members Present:

Gerald Elliott	Ken Donahue	Dana Donahue	Pat Hamlett
Allene Doggett	Dan Kirk	Miste Davis	Theresa Margos
Martha Scroggins	Sam Scroggins	Shelly Ogle	Neal Duncan
Ben Hudman	Charles Mazarakes		

### Members Not Present:

Robby Fair	Chris Flournoy	Joanne Wisdom	JR Simpson
Jim Berry	Lowe Ann Elliott		

**Others Present:** Executive Director Kiki Bettis; County Hotel Lodging Representative Vic Savelli guests, Quitman City Councilwoman Susan Resnick, County Judge-Elect Lucy Hebron, and Chairman of the Wood County Republican Club Janna Castloo; Media, Larry Tucker, editor of the Wood County Monitor, and Bryan Giguere, editor of the Winnsboro News.

- 1. Call To Order/Welcome:** Chairman Gerald Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the invocation before welcoming guests, Quitman City Councilwoman Susan Resnick, Wood County Judge-Elect Lucy Hebron; along with new board member Pat Hamlett of Mineola. Hamlett will be serving the remaining term left by outgoing board member Janna Castloo. Chairman Elliott presented Castloo with a plaque in recognition of her dedicated service and commitment to the board of directors for the past four years.
- 2. Open Forum:** Hotel Lodging Representative Vic Savelli voiced his concerns regarding those lodging establishments not paying their county hotel/motel tax. He questioned the penalty process to those not in compliance and asked what the WCIC could do to assist in the collection process. He also stated that those establishments not paying their tax should not be eligible for future HOT grant funding.
- 3. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Ken Donahue and seconded by Neal Duncan to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the regular meeting held May 3, 2018, and the financial reports for the month of June as presented. Motion carried- unanimously.
- 4. Proposed HOT Fund Projects for FY 2018-19:** Members of the HOT Fund committee met in May to review the applications as well as heard presentations on each of the projects. There were a total of 26 applications received with a combined total of \$150,800 in funding requests. The total amount budgeted for such projects were set at \$75,000. The list of projects and requested amounts to be considered for funding for the upcoming 2018-2019 fiscal year included Sealy Outdoors, \$9,000; Patriot Sporting Challenge, \$1,000; Skeeter, \$7,500; Bass Champs, \$10,750; Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce (Boat Shows) \$4,650; Yantis Catfish Classic, \$5500; Legends of Lake Fork, \$5,000; Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce (High School Fishing Tournament) \$5,300; Bass on the Fly, \$1,500; Quitman Chamber of Commerce, \$500; Lake Country Classic Car Club, \$750; Wood County Old Settlers Association, \$4,000; Hawkins Chamber of Commerce, \$750; Love Lake Hawkins Firework Show \$200; Winnsboro Rodeo Association, \$1,000; Autumn Trails Association, \$3,500; Four Corners Art/Wine Festival, \$2,500; League of the Arts, \$400; Mineola EDC (Iron Horse Square) \$3,000; Mineola EDC (Lake Country Trails) \$2,000; Mineola Chamber of Commerce (Fiesta Days) \$1,500; Mineola Chamber of Commerce (Iron Horse Festival) \$2,500; Mineola Chamber of Commerce (Visitor Center Expansion) \$1,200; APET-SPCA \$1,000. A motion was made by Dan Kirk and seconded Dana Donahue to accept the list as presented. Motion carried-unanimously.
- 5. Proposed HOT Fund Budget for FY 2018-19:** Bettis presented the board with a copy of the proposed Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 and Chairman Elliott gave a quick overview. The overall total of the HOT Fund budget is set at \$119,000 which

is \$5,000 more than last year's amount. Chairman Elliott explained the increase was earmarked for a possible tourism project that is tentatively scheduled for May 2019. A motion was made by Dan Kirk and seconded by Sam Scroggins to accept the Proposed HOT Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 as presented. Motion carried-unanimously. The proposed HOT budget will be submitted to the County Judge and Commissioners Court for approval.

6. **Proposed General Fund Budget for FY 2018-19:** Bettis presented the board with a copy of the proposed General Fund budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 and Chairman Elliott gave a brief overview. The overall total of the General Fund budget is set at \$195,906 which is a \$20,000 increase over last year's amount. There were a couple of changes made to particular line items in order to increase the amount allotted for advertising and county association dues. Chairman Elliott explained the additional increases were earmarked for a possible tourism project that is tentatively scheduled for May 2019, along with a potential economic development project that would benefit Wood County and the East Texas region. Margos questioned the increase in expenses when revenues are indicating a decrease and asked if the WCIC had received their Unclaimed Capital Credit (UCC) monies for the upcoming year. Bettis explained that revenues may appear down however actual totals come in slightly higher with respect from the City of Alba. The city is invoiced based on actual population totals which in turn adds up to \$791 however the city has graciously continued to contribute \$1,000. Bettis said that she has confirmed with Alba city officials of the same contribution as last year. Also, the county has not received the UCC monies at this time. Bettis reminded the board that this budget was prepared on the anticipation and contingency of those UCC funds. A motion was made by Neal Duncan and seconded by Martha Scroggins to accept the Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 as presented. Motion carried with 13 in favor of the budget recommendation and 1 against (Theresa Margos). The proposed General Fund budget will be submitted to the County Judge and Commissioners Court for approval.
7. **Executive Directors Report:** Bettis attended the Mid-Annual TEDC Conference last month and reported learning new innovative technology programs (now available through the Texas Workforce Commission) on demographic trends, mapping, property and business data. Also learned (using real world examples) of how businesses are collaborating with career and technical centers, community colleges and high schools to shape curriculum for a better skilled workforce; create training that meets a dynamic and competitive marketplace; understand how to work with technology and embrace a generation that doesn't find working with robots strange; and how appropriate housing supply can encourage or restrain business growth. With a shortage of the skills needed for thriving advanced technology and processing companies, ED organizations are looking at ways to merge efforts with community development and workforce development to create communities where skilled talent can learn and live which will attract the companies that need to hire them. Bettis also reported that Tax Abatements are one of the topics for discussion in the upcoming Legislative session. Tax abatement does in fact increase the corporate tax base for the county and our communities which is why we offer/use those abatements as an incentive. However some elected officials feel differently and ultimately want to eliminate such as an incentive. With that said, EDC representatives across the state will be meeting in Austin at the end of August to protest our views on such. Also the State requires that a County establish/re-establish the Tax Abatement (every 2 years) and Reinvestment Zone (every 5 years) guidelines. After several days of researching, it appears that those requirements had not been done for quite some time. Nonetheless, the WCIC (in conjunction with the Appraisal District) has been tasked with keeping record of all the tax abatements as well as make sure those guidelines stay up-to-date and in compliance with the state. The official paperwork has been completed and scheduled for Commissioners Court approval. The office is getting an update! Chris and IT Department has been working with me all week installing a firewall system along with re-wiring the office. Tomorrow Peoples Telephone will be at the Airport re-wiring the terminal building which leads into my office. Also, the county agreed to purchase a new desk for the office. After doing a little research, it appears that the WCIC has never purchased a new desk- the organization has been "gifted" hand-me-downs. The Auditor's Office and I found a great deal on a durable/contemporary style desk with lateral file drawers which will be more effective for the office as well as a more spacious work area. It should be delivered next week.

8. **Community Reports:**

*Alba-* The annual Skeeter Fishing Tournament was held last weekend at Lake Fork Marina with roughly 2300 fishermen entered in the contest. The annual High School Open Fishing Tournament, hosted by the Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for July 20-22 at Oak Ridge Marina. Also work continues on the city's water system with several upgrades on tap. Also the city has been diligently working on updating their water system.

*Hawkins-* Hawkins ISD will host a town hall meeting on July 10 on school safety. The school has also undergone some renovations including re-configuring the high school office as well as eliminated the middle school facility moving those students to the Jr./Sr. campus. The district will now house only two campuses. The annual firework show at Lake Hawkins will be held this Saturday.

*Mineola-* Playing at the Select Theater this weekend is the movie "Solo". The annual Mineola Rodeo, benefitting the Mineola Fire Department, is scheduled for July 13-14. The Lake Country Playhouse is working on their upcoming production of "1776" which opens Friday, July 21. The annual firework show at the Mineola Civic Center will be held this Saturday. Also at the Civic Center, the Water Park has officially opened and is available for private parties. The pizza restaurant, Wing Dingers, located on Loop 564, is officially under construction. Mineola ISD is also hosting a town hall meeting on school safety and it will be held at the elementary campus. The city has welcomed Doris Newman as the new EDC director along with Karen Hyell as the city's new Marketing Manager. Also, a new cheesecake business is set to open soon in the downtown area and the hometown restaurant 'Kitchen's is under new management.

*Quitman-* The Chamber will host Movies in Park on July 21 at 9 p.m. featuring "Moana". The new sidewalk in the downtown area has been poured and a new yogurt has officially opened. Also, Stitchin Heaven has announced their move back to Quitman and will soon be located in the Industrial Park, across from the Package Store. The 115<sup>th</sup> annual Old Settlers Reunion will be held August 1-4 at Governor Jim Hogg City Park. Also, a new resource police officer has been hired to work six months at the school and six months for the police department.

*Winnsboro-* Ground has officially broken on the development of the new school facility. The annual firework show held July 4 at the City Park was a huge success. Bonnie's Lunch Box has officially opened on the downtown square.

*Yantis-* Longtime produce stand located on the square (intersection) in Yantis has found a new home. The produce market has moved into the former Masonic Lodge building, still located at the intersection.

9. **Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held Thursday, August 2, 2018 in Winnsboro. The location of the meeting will be determined and announced later this month.

10. **Meeting adjourned:** A motion was made by Theresa Margos and seconded by Miste Davis to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried-unanimously.

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Kiki Bettis, Executive Director