



SAN BENITO COUNTY Economic Development Committee

Committee:

*Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisor Bob Tiffany, District 4 and
Board of Supervisor Peter Hernandez, District 3*

AGENDA MINUTES

MAY 26, 2022

12:00 P.M.

San Benito County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

12:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Hernandez, District #3

2. ROLL CALL.

*Peter Hernandez X
Bob Tiffany X*

3. ACKNOWLEDGE CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Motion to acknowledge certificate of posting:

*Made by **Supervisor Tiffany** and Seconded by **Supervisor Hernandez***

2-0

For (2)

Ayes: Tiffany, Hernandez

Against (0):

Noes: -

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Opportunity to address the Committee on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Section 54954.2.*

Public Comment Opened.

Brian Foucht provided comments regarding the economic development committee.

Public Comment Closed

5. Approve minutes for April 14, 2022

MOTION:

Motion to approve the April 14, 2022, Economic Development Committee meeting minutes.

*Made by **Supervisor Hernandez**, seconded by **Supervisor Tiffany***

2-0

For (2)

Ayes: Tiffany, Hernandez

Against (0):

Noes: -

REGULAR AGENDA

6. PROPOSED RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO AB 361- Adopt the proposed resolution authorizing teleconferencing options for meetings of the Committee for the period of May 26, 2022, through June 26, 2022, pursuant to AB 361.

MOTION:

Motion to approve proposed resolution as presented.

*Made by **Supervisor Hernandez**, seconded by **Supervisor Tiffany***

2-0

For (2)

Ayes: Tiffany, Hernandez

Against (0):

Noes: -

7. DISCUSS changing regular standing meetings from the second Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month and provide staff direction.

MOTION:

Motion to approve changing regular standing meetings for Economic Development Committee from the second Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month.

*Made by **Supervisor Hernandez**, seconded by **Supervisor Tiffany***

2-0

For (2)

Against (0):

Ayes: Tiffany, Hernandez

Noes: -

8. DISCUSS proposed Sales Tax Reimbursement program and provide staff direction if desired.

Dulce Alonso, the Senior Administrative Analyst, introduced and presented an overview of the Sales Tax Reimbursement program.

Dialogue between Supervisors Tiffany and Hernandez regarding the scope of interest for the County and Sales tax reimbursement program.

Supervisor Tiffany, if the goal is primarily to attract larger businesses, it is reasonable to have a higher threshold depending on the County's interest.

Dulce provided further input addressing the thresholds in the draft Sales tax program. There were two tiers for reimbursement, respectively, for businesses generating \$25,000 and \$10,000 in revenues.

Supervisor Tiffany asked for input from business organizations regarding the program.

Renee Wells, with the Economic Development Corporation of San Benito, suggested it would be good to have a medium threshold to start the program. In the event no applicants are interested, the County can reevaluate. Discussed Livermore as an example and possible revenue thresholds.

Jim Gillio and Brian Foucht provided further comments and dialogue.

Presentation only; no action taken

9. DISCUSS filing of the notice of intention to circulate initiative measure and potential impact on future economic development and provide staff direction if desired.

Supervisor Tiffany introduced the item and provided comments.

Joel Ellinwood, Deputy County Counsel, presented the governing laws on the intention to circulate the initiative, the Board of Supervisors actions at the next regular Board meeting, the election timing, the elections code 9111 Impact report, County & Supervisors' Role during the election and Acceptable v. Impermissible Activities.

Supervisor Tiffany asked for input from the business organization regarding the presented material.

Brian Foucht would like to understand the best way to obtain information on the Ballot measures.

Deputy County Counsel stated the ballot measures are available on the county website, and public members can request the ballot text for viewing.

Gabriel Orozco, Budget Officer, provided information on the potential impacts the initiative may have on County funds and potential growth projects.

Public comment opened

Public comment closed.

CAO Ray Espinosa provided brief comments.

Supervisor Tiffany asked if any concerns arose if the Committee discussed the initiative.

Deputy County Counsel Ellinwood answered that as a public meeting, the Committee must follow the Brown Act, and general members must have an opportunity to speak. The Committee can take suggestions back to the entire Board of Supervisors body.

Presentation only, no action taken.

10. Receive an informational presentation on the Community Economic Resilience Fund "CERF" program from Economic Development Corporation.

Renee Wells, Economic Development Corporation of San Benito, provided a presentation on the Community Economic Resilience Fund, which was created last year to address sustainable and equitable recovery from economic distress. The program is broken into 13 regions and two phases. Phase one is planning; each area may apply to obtain 5 million in funds for the planning process. Phase two is implementation with funding of \$500 million available however is competitive

San Benito County is part of the Central Coast Region comprised of San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The Uplift Central Coast Coalition – led by REACH, EDC, and Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP), has joined a working group to develop a plan to apply for the region. The process will take about eight weeks.

Public Comment opened

Public Comment closed

Supervisor Tiffany provided brief comments

No action taken, presentation only.

11. DISCUSS and provide direction on the California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program and provide staff direction if desired.

Gracie Rodriguez, Associate Admin. Analyst, provided a brief update on the grant program status, how many applications were received, how many meet the criteria, and how many are expected to receive awards. Next steps are to meet with the working group to discuss and review grant applications.

Public Comment opened

Public Comment closed.

Presentation only; no action taken.

12. DISCUSS Economic Development Programs in the State Budget May Revise.

Dulce Alonso, Senior Administrative Analyst, presented economic development programs from the May Revise FY 2022-23 Budget Plan and highlighted Cal Competes Tax credits and grants, Climate innovation Grant Program, and the Small Business Hard Hit Industries Grant Program.

Public Comment opened.

Public Comment closed.

Presentation only; no action taken

13. DISCUSS accomplishments over the past year and set priorities for the remainder of 2022.

Dulce Alonso, Senior Administrative Analyst, presented on the Economic Development Ad hoc accomplishments that were reached prior to the formation of the Economic Development. Activities included retaining a lobbyist, updating the Cannabis Ordinance, contract with a grant writing firm, explored a Sales tax 1% County initiative, and County tax collector business license program & compliance.

Supervisors Tiffany and Hernandez provided comments regarding the ad hoc accomplishments.

Public comment opened

Jim asked if there is land available that is currently zoned or potentially could be rezoned for commercial or infrastructure work for businesses to come into San Benito County and whether the county is interested in preplanning or rezoning for projects.

Supervisor Tiffany and CAO Ray Espinosa provided comments.

Arielle Goodspeed, principal planner, provided comments regarding the pre-zoning.

Supervisor Tiffany recommended bringing forward an item to either the committee or at the board level showcasing the parcels that are zoned for commercial.

Goodspeed has been working closely with the Geographic Information Systems department to create an interactive map that showcases the parcels for commercial and other zoning uses and plans to bring forth to the board at a future date.

Kristina Chavez, from the Business Council, asked if information has been presented regarding the current and future capacity of the regional wastewater treatment plant and what the operating agreement entails. Would like to see the county focus on other projects as well.

Supervisor Tiffany provided comments and is looking to explore different approaches and ideas regarding present and future projects.

Kristina and Supervisor Tiffany provided further comments regarding affordable housing.

Public comment closed.

Presentation only; no action taken

14. Report out from Committee members or the ex-officio members.

Item opened.

Committee members had opportunity to report out information.

Item closed.

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS., No discussion of these items shall occur, but the Committee may direct any of the reports to be agenzized for a future meeting.

Supervisor Tiffany recommended individuals reach out to himself or Dulce Alonso, Senior Admin. Analyst for placing an item on upcoming Economic Development committee agenda.

No further comments provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

*Motion to adjourn meeting made by **Supervisor Hernandez** seconded by **Supervisor Tiffany***

2-0

For (2)

Ayes: Tiffany, Hernandez

Against (0):

Noes: -

As required by Gov. Code Section 54957.5 any public record distributed to the San Benito Economic Development Committee less than 72 hours prior to this meeting in connection with any agenda item shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board, San Benito County Administration Building, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Public records distributed during the meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting if prepared by the County. If the public record is prepared by some other person and distributed at the meeting it will be made available for public inspection following the meeting at the office of the Clerk of the Board.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the Board of Supervisors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (831) 636-4000 at least 48-hours before the meeting to enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.