

M A D E R A C O U N T Y
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION

B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S

M I N U T E S

January 8, 2020

PRESENT: *Mary Diebert, Ollia Ridge, Brett Frazier, Brad Ditton, Darin Soukup, Aran Johal, Tracie Scott Contreras, Wade Wheeler, Ron Flores, Waseem Ahmed, Robert Poythress, Paige Hill*

ABSENT: *Andy Medellin*

STAFF: *Bobby Kahn, Lois Leonard, Julie Herd*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Poythress.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITIONS

None.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No changes.

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

5.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Minutes
-October 16, 2019

5.2 Madera County Economic Development Commission Financial Report
- December 2019

On motion by Commissioner Frazier and seconded by Commissioner Ahmed, the consent calendar is approved as presented. Motion carried.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Madera County Economic Development Commission Fiscal Year 2018-19 Audit

On motion by Commissioner Diebert and seconded by Commissioner Scott-Contreras the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 audit is approved as presented. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

8.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

8.1 Letter to California Transportation Commission-Draft 2020 ITIP

8.2 Letter to State of California-Health & Human Services-Whole Person Care Pilot Program

9.0 OPEN DISCUSSION/REPORT/INFORMATION

9.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Poythress - (Madera Chamber) - *reported the Chamber had a successful year and they have a trip planned to the French Riviera in March.*

Commissioner Ridge - (Madera Ranchos Chamber) - *reported the new library opened. They had an outstanding Christmas mixer. On March 6th, they will hold their annual crab feed.*

Commissioner Frazier- (Board of Supervisors) - *reported Supervisor Rogers is the 2020 Chairman. They hired a new HR director and will begin their search for a new CEO. Their budget is good and will be starting some road projects. District 3 will keep Supervisor Poythress and District 4 will have a race.*

Commissioner Soukup - (Oakhurst Chamber) - *reported the Chamber Installation luncheon will be held on January 16th. On the 9th, they will have a mixer at The Met. He invited everyone to the Ribbon Cutting for the new Ag & Technology building at the Madera Center on January 9th at 3pm.*

Commissioner Johal- (Coarsegold Chamber) - *reported on their successful Business Expo in November. Their installation will be held at Chukchansi on January 17th from 6-9pm. He is the incoming President, Chair of the Eastern Madera County Chamber Alliance and found out today he passed his broker license exam.*

Commissioner Diebert - (Public Utility) - *reported on their online rate analysis tool. Busy, with the safety shut offs, and hearings. Locally meeting with customers preparing them for the time of use changes. Time of use will be shifting to later in the day, this does not include residential. They will begin meeting with Ag customers in March.*

Commissioner Scott Contreras - (Workforce Investment Board)- reported they are busy. At the December meeting, the Board doesn't want to define a quality job. It's hard to define across all industries. They received a \$20,000 grant from Wells Fargo to continue working on a high school equivalency exam class. They've applied for three grants; veterans, disabled employment and homelessness. They attended the homelessness alliance meeting with the goal of slowing the growth of homelessness. They will attend a workforce state legislative session on March 11th.

Commissioner Hill- (Chowchilla Chamber)- reported on their successful Farm Fest dinner, shop Chowchilla program that included a decorating contest. Their installation will be held on January 19th. They have completed their 2020 strategic plan.

Commissioner Ahmed- (City of Chowchilla)- reported on the opening of Rodriguez Financial Services and the relocation of Subway and Jack in the Box.

Commissioner Ditton - (Bass Lake Chamber)- reported Bass Lake Chamber is working on their 2020 event calendar, he will share at the next meeting. Real Estate is great in the mountains and in Bass Lake.

Commissioner Wheeler -(North Fork Chamber)- reported their goal is to focus on current business and their website. They will continue with their October Fest and are looking into doing a Spartan Race as another fund raiser.

Commissioner Flores - (Industry at Large) - reported unemployment is down, but are still looking for people. A new manufacturer of truck parts is coming across from the new fire station. Freedom Industrial Park is doing well adding another new building. Companies are at their max because of the labor situation. No people, no increased production.

9.2 Staff Reports

Executive Director- Bobby reported he gave an update at the GMCIA meeting this morning. Loves is in their final stage. Transpak in Freedom Industrial Park is moving rapidly. Hoping for an April move in date. Full throttle is a family owned business that manufacturers lift kits. They will have a 100,000 sq. ft. facility plus an additional 20,000 sq. ft. for one of their customers. Vallarta is taking over the old Mervyns building with \$11 million in improvements. They will have 200 employees. Freedom Industrial Parks 37,000 sq ft. spec building is 2/3 full with Span Construction building another 37,000 sq ft building. They are hoping to purchase an additional two lots from the city and a possible 125,000 sq ft building for a manufacturer. O'Reilly's is opening in Chowchilla and Piranha Pipe expanding. There is some interest in the old Chowchilla Pistachio building. He met with the Denney's people showing them different sites. Pines Resort is working on a major expansion adding rooms and a glamping area on over 10 acres. Tractor Supply will open in Oakhurst. Dutch Brothers is in a lease negotiations at the Madera Fairgrounds and are mostly focusing on Madera and Merced at this time. Starbucks has opened on Olive near Planet Fitness. He completed an Orange County mission in October, Process Expo Chicago in September. He will be doing a Bay Area/Stockton mission in February then attending an Nor Cal SIOR event. Will Marshal reached out saying the EDA has funds available. They will be meeting with Community Hospital next week. If anyone has projects and are interested in EDA money contact Bobby.

9.3 **Manager of Business Development & Marketing**

Julie reported the annual reports are out and asked if anyone would like different information on the marketing report to let her know. She is working on updating the website and is in need of more Eastern Madera properties, please share. She is the liaison for Channel 30 and would be happy to share events with them.

9.4 **Business Assistance/Office Manager**

Lois asked the chambers to be sure they have information on the Revolving Loan program.

10.0 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Commission will be held April 8, 2020.

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Leonard
Recording Secretary