**CDC Work Session Notes**

**April 25, 2017**

**1st Southwest Bank**

**In Attendance:** Michael Whiting, Jason Cox, Cindi Galabota, Neal Johnson, Jimmy Munozcano, Nicole DeMarco, and Mike Heraty. Chamber staff and visitors: Mary Jo Coulehan, Amanda Powers, Jill Seyfarth - Region 9

**Absent:** Jeff Gavlinski, Sherry Waner

The meeting began at 11:15 a.m.

The notes from the last work session were reviewed. There were no changes.

MJ reviewed the Financials:

* Jason presented the 1st Quarter billing to the Town and County. We should receive payments from them soon. Jason reviewed his talking points that he gave to the government entities.
* The 1st Quarter microloan payment check from Region 9 has not been posted yet.
* The request from Jeff to remove the “restricted funds” for Liberty Theatre and the Reservoir Hill Overlook projects from the balance sheet were done. The reason they showed up on the last balance sheet was because MJ ran a YTY comparison and it showed up from last year.
* Mary Jo will meet with Derek to make sure that the balance sheet is corrected with the removal of the furniture and equipment and a correct entry for the microloan checks.
* Nicole questioned the $200/month website hosting. It is $200 per year and would be for domain names registration. Jason indicated that his company has hosted the CDC website for free for years. We may need to start paying something for the hosting.
* When we receive the funds from the Town and County, we will apply the money that was billed out for the broadband project to Echo IT to broadband income.
* Jason asked Mike and Nicole if he needed to modify anything in his presentations. They thought it was fine.

**Chamber Update**

* Region 9 has approved the microloan for Wild N’ Crazy Critters with the stipulation that the owner will need to take some business classes such as QB and Excel
* Jimmy asked if MJ could provide more information on the number of jobs provided. MJ will work on reporting that information.
* Michael reported that San Juan Strains has created about 7 higher paying jobs since opening.
* Board discussed relationship with SBDC
	+ Jason indicated that we need to strengthen that relationship in the future
	+ MJ has asked for help with consultants and class trainers, but has not had any response. They are trying to find someone to teach the Marketing for Smarties class.
	+ Rich Lindblad will hold another Leading Edge class in the fall if we can get enough participation
	+ Nicole asked how many people attend the trainings. MJ responded that it depends on the class. With the suggestion that we utilize someone like Parelli for marketing, MJ indicated that we use local talent when we can.
	+ Jason recommended that we see if we can get SBDC to form a contract to ensure we are getting resources for the money we would spend or prepare an MOU about how they would use the funds. MJ to check and see if they can attend a meeting or work session. She will attend the SBDC advisory board meeting next week.

**Annual Meeting**

* MJ created a list of invitees for the board to review. There were about 70 names. We will send out invitations via snail mail and follow up with calls or emails.
* Board should try and get there about 5:15
* Jimmy did not think he would be able to attend due to a bank meeting conflict.
* Check with Jeff and see if he is going to be able to attend to report out on the financials. If not, Jason will present the financials.
* We have 2 appointed board positions open. Mike has agreed to be appointed again, Jimmy will consider. The sitting board appoints the newly appointed board members.
* The elected board members will be elected by ballot which will be handed out to CDC members when they arrive. At some point in the meeting Jason should call for the vote. The Chamber staff will collect and tally the votes and the new board members will be announced at the end of the meeting.
* In the elected category, we have a candidate from the school district, Laura Mijares. MJ is waiting to hear back from the hospital if they would like to submit a candidate. Jimmy will also reach out to Jesse Hensle at the hospital.
* Cindi is not going to run again. She recommended that we poll current members to see if they are interested in running.
* Cindi explained the by-law change that we will be voting on at the meeting. This change clarifies when the old and new board members assume their term. This will help with the appointment process and who is on the board when.
* Pagosa Baking, a CDC member, was chosen to provide the food. We will also give out one drink coupons to any CDC member in attendance whether old or they just signed up.
* We should take time at the meeting to recognize our business partners and any government officials.

**Region 9 Update**

* Jill handed out the 2017 Region 9 Economic Snapshot. It is 2015 data.
* She reviewed the Jump Start program. Michael indicated that the resolution to approve Archuleta County to be considered as a Jump Start community will be on the next commissioners’ agenda on 5/2/17.
* Businesses can receive tax breaks for up to 3 years. The business MUST be a new industry to the state and create a certain amount of jobs at a higher wage scale in order to qualify.
* OEDIT is doing another round of Blueprint initiatives. They are keeping some of the ones from the first round like Tiny Homes and Outdoor Recreation, but there are about 5 new initiatives such as community workspace, small business certified community, film production initiative, data development. Mike was interested in this initiative. MJ will send him the link to the Blueprint initiatives. MJ mentioned that the town just got a “Smart Growth” grant which is very competitive and duplicates one of these initiatives.

**Data Project**

Mike again reviewed the data collection process that happened in Telluride. The data was very detailed and much more comprehensive than any tourism study done. Michael indicated that the Town and County will need to see what the return for Telluride was and that is one way to make a case.

**Broadband Update**

* Both Eric and Jason have been busy, but they are meeting on Thursday, April 27.
* Michael and Jason met last Friday and saw some new technology that could be very impactful in our community. There was a discussion on this technology, the costs involved and how many units could service the county and make an impact.

**Education**

* Mary Jo reported that she secured Brian Lewendowski from the CSU Leeds School of Business to be a speaker at one of our forums. He gave an excellent presentation at the Club 20 meeting and he will modify the presentation to include Archuleta County and Southwest Colorado in comparison to the state. It would be a good 3rd quarter presentation and the school along with OEDIT is doing a study in Montrose/Ridgeway and they would like to fit us in in the summer.
* MJ will also follow up with SBDC to see what education classes they might be able to assist with.

**Policy**

* We should make sure that we are involved in some of the working groups that are in effect.
* MJ and Jason are on the Town’s Comp Plan group.
* MJ is on the Housing workgroup and Early Childhood Education
* Michael is spearheading Early Childhood Education and Broadband
* MJ mentioned the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment that the Town and County put together has developed a survey. She encouraged everyone to take the survey and to encourage others to do so. The close date for the survey is at the end of the month.

The work session adjourned at 1:15 p.m.