

**TOWN OF TAZEWELL I/EDA**

**MEETING**

**MAY 5, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Cara Spivey, Glen Keen, Lucy D'Amato, Tammy Smith, Alicia Bales, Leeanne Regon, Brad Pyott

**ABSENT:** Susan Whittaker, Justin Takach

**CALL TO ORDER:** Cara Spivey

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion: Alicia Bales; Second Motion: Glen Keen; No Discussion

**All voted to Approve: Aye**

**A. EBAG Grant:**

1. Brad Pyott: Asked some questions about the EBAG Award for BeeNoodle'd.
  - a. What is going to be the Grant Period?
  - b. What was the tax base?
  - c. What is it now?
  - d. What is the increase?
  - e. The EBAG application needs to be amended showing the three part time positions and their base-line income for 2024.
  - f. EBAG is not in the Town Code, it is separate.
  - g. Also, EBAG has nothing to do with the 80/60/40 agreement.
2. Leeanne: We need two separate forms for EBAG and Meals Tax.
3. Glen: We need a new form. Mandy said we could keep it on the EBAG form explaining the meals tax. Is it too much to ask that we have two forms ready for our next meeting?
4. Alicia: Please spell out what the Acronyms are in the applications. (Ex: EBAG: Entrepreneurial Business Attraction Grant)
5. Lucy and Alicia: Is there any way that we can leave the application the same and just have two different agreements to go with it?
6. Brad: The EBAG Grant is a 9-year commitment and this should be stressed to the applicants. The applicants should be advised to set the grant money aside in another account and not to touch it just in case the business fails. They have to pay all that money back if the business does fail.
7. I/EDA is asking for the town to have the two applications and also have the Website updated by next meeting, which is June 3, 2025.
8. Cara: This may be the time for us to set up a policy for new businesses and not have existing businesses apply for the EBAG Grant. We can get policy and procedures in a better place for us and also for future committees that come behind us.
9. Our 2025 Goal is to: Draft New Applications
  - Update the Website on what an EBAG applicant needs to do when applying.

10. Glen made a motion to update the EBAG application. Alicia second the motion and all was in favor of this motion, all voted Aye.
- B. Wayfarer Appalachia, LLC 386 Main Street Tazewell, VA 24651 has applied for EBAG and BPOL (Business, Professional & Occupational License), and meals tax.
1. Glen made the motion to approve the Wayfarer application, Lucie second the motion and all was in favor of the motion. All Aye.
- C. Fearless Ventures, LLC 386 Main Street Tazewell, VA 24651: Owner Chris Myers. The property belongs to belongs to them and they will be applying for the BPOL and EBAG Grant as well. This will cover furniture, equipment, personal property and real estate tax.
- D. We also have a new application from Stingerz, LLC 300 Main Street Tazewell, VA 24651 which is an indoor golf business. This business will be offering golf lessons, attire, equipment and have hourly rates for practicing your golf game.
1. Glen: Should we ask them to come to our next meeting and do a presentation for us? Everyone agrees that he should come to June's meeting to do a presentation. There is no more discussion on this.
- E. ONGOING PROJECTS:
1. Marinus Family—Brad has been working on these deeds. He showed us on the map how the deed would be set up. A lot of the work would fall to the town, but Mr. Marinus will have to do the drainage work. The Marinus Family will have 18 months to do the work and if they do not complete the work within this time frame, the land will fall back to the I/EDA Committee.
- A. Glen made the motion to move forward with this exchange and everything set therein.
- B. Cara second the motion.
- C. All agreed, All Aye.
2. Brad requested to do a Billy Wagner Memorial at the Mini-Park on Main Street.
- A. Glen made the motion to move forward with the Billy Wagner Memorial, Cara second the motion and all was in favor. All Aye.
- B. There was some discussion on the "Wildflower Project" happening there at the Mini-Park and also on Main Street. We will replace the flowers if there is any damage to them. LeeAnne said that she would give Wanda (the lady doing the flowers) the go ahead on this project (wildflowers).
3. **Property Acquired from the Town of Tazewell:** Since this property will be a multi-functional facility, we are applying for the ARC Grant (Appalachian Regional Commission Grant). There are a lot of ideas floating around for the new property, such as a General Store, a Mountain Biking Retailer and Rental place, a restaurant, maybe a venue and maybe some kind of lodging. We are ready to get the word out, ready to discuss; if any of us know someone who might be interested in coming to pitch a business idea to us, we are ready for that. We also need to come up with some kind of rental agreement for tenants wanting to open up a business here. The goal is by May 2026 to know where this property is going and not having it set empty.
- Cara: Is there any other discussion on the new property?

Brad & LEEANNE: We are looking to hire an Economic Assistant and this person will be able to help I/EDA on things such as the new property.

4. **Farmer's Market:** On May 20<sup>th</sup>, LEEANNE and Susan are going to a meeting with the Tobacco Commission to fight for a grant for the Farmer's Market. There is also another grant that we have applied to for the River Walk Space. This will be for landscaping, benches, river access, etc.; we haven't heard back from that one yet. Also, we are looking to do a River Wall Mural. We have also applied for a Grant called AFID (Agricultural and Forestry Industries Development) for \$50,000 for site work for the Farmer's Market. We also have another opportunity with something called GoVA; Cara has been in touch with Christina and Aaron who are in charge of the Farmer's Market. They will be providing us with a list of their vendors and the cities where they live so that we can demonstrate that their Farmer's Market Association benefits more than just Tazewell County. We have to be able to demonstrate that multiple counties come here to do business. Christina said she would have that to us before May 12<sup>th</sup>.

5. **Miscellaneous:**

- A. **Mountain Biking Project:** LEEANNE said there is some progress with that. She has talked to a design/developer somewhere in the vicinity of Colorado. They are also gathering knowledge/information for the project. There is also discussion of maybe involving the school system in this project due to sports biking. We have opened the doors to talk with the Hunter family who owns the property. We will have to cross their land in order to get to the land where the Mountain Biking project will be.
- B. **Billy Wagner Project:** Had a committee meeting in Brad's office and will have another one this coming Wednesday. There were tasks that were assigned; a quick summary of those tasks. Mr. Blankenship will be getting in touch with the Astros to see if there would be a way that we could use their mold for our statue. We also have been in touch with the person who did the Coal Miners Statue in Richlands; that person is on board and ready to do a mock-up of the Billy Wagner Statue. Brad said that Mr. Blankenship has gotten in touch with the Astros and they do not have anything planned, they are in agreement with what we are wanting to do with this project. The Astros will have to approve the artwork; I don't think we will have a problem with them approving it. We do not know if they are going to be financially supportive of this project. They are basically saying "Good Luck" and that's about where we stand. Brad also discusses the possibility of certain fundraising. Also, we discussed how we will go about handling and banking the money and procurement. If someone makes a contribution, we (either Town of Tazewell or I/EDA) have to do a tax-deductible letter. It will be our responsibility to take care of the park and statue.
- C. **Sharon Thomas:** We need to get in touch with Sharon Thomas and have her come back to our October 2025 meeting to give us an update on the theater project.

**D. Warhawk Park:** The paving is done, pickleball courts are paved, basketball courts are paved and the basketball goals are ordered. Pavement is done for the shelter; the shelter is ordered and in. The picnic tables are done; the vocational school has done these and they will be putting the shelter together. We are trying to get enough done so that on Juneteenth there can be a ribbon cutting for the Warhawk Park. The church across the street is giving the park an area to park as well.

**E. Grocery Store:** Leeanne is trying to get another grocery store to come to town. Discussion was made about this and the Ramey Lot.

Glen made the motion to adjourn.

Tammy second the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be June 2, 2025 @ 4:30 p.m.