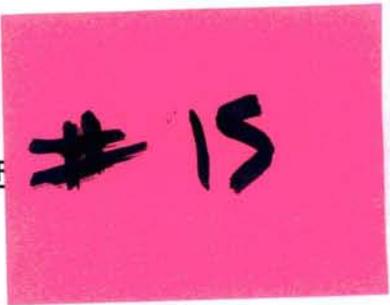


WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) F



Date: October 1, 2015

Weekly Agenda Date: October 6, 2015

DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Supervisor Jeremy Taylor

SUBJECT: **Economic Development for Rural Areas**

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Give Direction

Other: Informational

Attachments

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM: Economic Development for Rural Communities from LOST funds

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Economic development in rural Woodbury County needs tools that can better be utilized by our communities. We have an obligation to give the very best tools to our communities because this funding mechanism was created by the Legislature to take sales tax revenue and further invest it in economic development.

BACKGROUND: As Woodbury County moves on to give communities the tools that they need to grow, the commitment on behalf of the Board is to economic development. Such funding proposals and mechanisms should have as a prerequisite a community plan that the county will ultimately pay for.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: To be determined

RECOMMENDATION: That a working group of 3 individuals from the County and 5 private citizens be compromised, the Chairman, Board of Supervisors liaison to Economic Development, and the Economic Development Director with a citizen group. This citizen group would comprise a representative from the Taxpayers' Research Conference, the Editor of The Record (the newspaper serving rural Woodbury County), the Editor of the Sergeant Bluff Advocate, the Mayor of Sergeant Bluff, and the Mayor of Merville. The goal would be to craft a proposal for the Board approval for truly making a difference out in rural Woodbury County. Such a program should be widespread, available to all communities, and take meetings of each rural community's input (per the prior or upcoming approved comprehensive plan) to ensure that dollars benefit entire communities. Part of the portfolio for such a plan could also include leveraging the Economic Development Department's ability to help procure grants (state and federal funding), nuisance abatement, feasibility of water/sewer and infrastructure needs as well as access to capital for startups or expansion.

Not only would this group help to re-energize and make a difference for sound, results-based economic development but also this group could help in a critical new process of recommendations for the RFP concerning entities that will conduct long-range planning for each community. Having gone through the process recently, both the Merville and the Sergeant Bluff mayor could provide very helpful input on what they feel may be a good process.

ACTION REQUIRED: I move that the working group of the aforesaid individuals begin meeting in order to make recommendations to the Board.