The following members were present: Mayor Buddy Bradshaw, Charlie Bettis, Mayor Jeff Harris, Eddie Simpson, Ron Jordan, Harold Duff, Ty Ross, and Amber Scott

Also present were: LCEDA staff members Jack Qualls and Blair Patterson

Chairman Buddy Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Approval of the minutes from the September 18th, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting
The minutes were emailed to the Members prior to the meeting for their review. Eddie Simpson made a motion to approve the September 18th, 2018 minutes, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.

Financial Report
Charlie Bettis presented the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet reviewing current assets, fixed assets, and liabilities. Ron Jordan made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Eddie Simpson. Motion passed.

Review of FY 2017-2018 Audit – Approval of Executive Committee’s Recommendation
Due to there being no findings, the Executive Committee recommended the FY 17-18 Audit be approved. Eddie Simpson made a motion to approve and accept the FY 2017-2018 Audit, seconded by Charlie Bettis. All approved.

Overview/Update of 2018 Prospects and Projects Activity
Jack Qualls gave an overview and update on 2018 Prospects and Projects Activity. He presented the 2018 spreadsheet for RFI’s Submitted to the State. The EDA received 36 RFI’s, submitted 29, and had 5 site visits. Of these 29 submittals, 12 were for the Centre 75 property. Jack pointed out that Loudon County is logistically located in a spot that will continue to appeal to prospects; however workforce and housing are two main areas that decrease interest.
Buddy Bradshaw stated that entry level housing is an area that County Commission can look further in to. Housing units in our community were then discussed.
Jack also stated that the list he provided does not have local projects/expansions on it due to those being more difficult to track. The EDA is a resource and service to all projects that come into the County.

Centre 75 – Ag Lease
Johnny James was not in attendance to discuss the lease. Eddie Simpson made a motion that the board postpones this discussion to the next board meeting, seconded by Charlie Bettis. Motion passed.

Overview/Update of 2018 Workforce Development
Blair Patterson gave the following updates:
  * The Unemployment rate is currently at 3.7%
  * The LCEDA created the following initiatives/programs with plans to continue and expand on them in
2019:
- Industry and Education Summit – All local educational institutes and industries were given the opportunity to network and learn from one another.
- ETSY workshop through KEC – we plan to provide more entrepreneurship opportunities for local entrepreneurs in 2019.
- Quarterly Local Industry Networking Luncheons – our next “roundtable” will be in January of 2019 with Commute with Enterprise as a guest speaker. Commute with Enterprise is a rideshare program for industries to offer to their employees, bringing possibility for a workforce solution.
- National Manufacturing Week – This event took place in October of 2018 with both local school systems touring Del Conca USA, Malibu Boats, Hubbell, and Morgan Olson. This event will expand in size in 2019.
- Educators in the Workplace – This initiative occurred in November of 2018 and gave educators the opportunity to tour Kimberly-Clark Corp and Morgan Olson. This gives teachers the tools they need to bring real-world examples into the classroom while showing students the opportunities available for them in the County.
- Young Professionals of Loudon County (YPLC) – The group will continue to grow in 2019 and has 50 members to this date. The Board has very positive input in regards to YPLC and sees the need and impact the group has made and will make into the future.

TVA will be hosting their regional Young Talent Matters meet up in Loudon County at The Venue in Lenoir City on January 11th. This is a great opportunity for our county and shows that our young talent efforts have been noticed.

Additional Business
Jack Qualls reiterated the importance of the workforce initiatives that have been brought to our county in the past year.

With no further business Ron Jordan made a motion to adjourn seconded by Harold Duff, motion carried.

[Signature]
Blair Patterson, Recording Secretary