County Economic Opportunity Board

January 15, 2026

3:30 p.m.

<47 South Main, Council Chambers (3rd floor)>

DRAFT

1. **Welcome & Roll Call**

   Brittany Lopez called the meeting to order. Introductions were made as follows: Brittany Lopez, Tooele County; Kathleen VonHatten, Lake Point City; Stephanie Bagwell, Tooele County Association of Realtors; Chris McCormick, Tooele Tourism; Ryan Englund, Better City; and John Perez, Tooele City Economic Development Director.

   Board Members present:Brittany Lopez
   Kathleen VonHatten
   Stephanie Bagwell
   John Perez
   Tyson Hamilton

   Also present:
   Chris McCormick
   Jess Clifford
   Bill Cobabe, Grantsville City
   Rachelle Custer, Tooele County
   Stephanie Eastburn, Tooele County

2. **Elect 2026 Chair & Vice Chair**

   Kathleen VonHatten made a motion to elect John Perez as 2026 Chairman. 2nd by Stephanie Bagwell.

   John Perez nominated Tyson Hamilton for 2026 Chairman. 2nd by Stephanie Bagwell.

   Vote for John Perez for 2026 Chairman: Kathleen: yes, Stephanie: yes, Tyson: yes, Brittany: yes, John: no. The motion passed.

   Tyson Hamilton made a motion to elect Brittany Lopez as 2026 Vice Chair. 2nd by Stephanie Bagwell. All in favor. The motion passed.

   John took over the meeting.

3. **Meeting Minutes**

   A. **Minutes from the August 21, 2025 meeting**

      MOTION AND VOTE

      Motion to approve the August 21, 2025 meeting minutes by Brittany Lopez. 2nd by Tyson Hamilton. All in favor. The motion passed.

4. **Better City Economic Development Report**

   A. **Better City Update, Ryan Englund**

Attachments
1. Tooele Business Resources - 2026.pdf
2. Tooele County 2025 Economic Report.pdf

Ryan Englund summarized the Economic Development report. Ryan stated the report is available and it will be updated every year. Brittany asked if Ryan would present the report to the County Council. He stated yes. John mentioned the statistic on the report that shows 75% of the county's workforce commutes to other counties for employment, and asked where it came from and when it was last updated. Ryan stated it is from the Census Bureau. Ryan stated it's called On TheMap, and I believe the data is from 2024. John mentioned the contract with Placer AI, one of the things they do is a workforce analysis. That number has gone down to 55-60% for Tooele City. Brittany asked John to do a demo of the PlacerAI at the next meeting. He stated part of the contract is for them to do a demo. There was discussion about the logins for PlacerAI and who will have the logins for the licenses. Rachelle stated that should be put on the next meeting.

Ryan stated every December I also update the Business Resources Guide.

There was discussion on the Economic Development website. Brittany asked everyone to review the website and ensure that their group's contacts are up-to-date.

5. **Grants**

A. **Small Business Development & Expansion Grant Update**

The grant application is now live and posted on the website.

Attachments
1. Small Business Grant Application 2026.pdf
2. Small Business Grant Checklist 2026.pdf

Small Business Development Grants. Stephanie Eastburn stated that the application is posted, please share it. Brittany stated she would create a social media post with the link to share it. Rachelle stated the application deadline is February 27th. Stephanie Eastburn stated that she would create a shared folder for all the grant applications to streamline the review process for the board. Brittany asked if it would be okay to cancel the February meeting since there wouldn't be any applications to review. John Perez agreed. The next meeting will be held March 19th. Brittany asked the board to send the scores to Stephanie before the meeting.

Ryan gave an overview of the grants from the business resources handout and stated if anyone needs help writing for a grant to reach out to him.

B. **Roundtable Discussion**

Brittany suggested going around the room to give everyone a chance to share what was going on in their area.

Tyson Hamilton: Downtown Alliance will be gearing up soon, after a winter break. Tyson asked John if he could review the data from last year's events and see the stats. John stated yes.

Bill Cobabe: we've got a new Mayor and a few new Council members. We have lots of new businesses coming.

Jess Clifford: We're under an interim president right now; Paul's position hasn't been posted yet. We are doing well. We're exploring bringing back the business expo.

Stephanie Bagwell: The housing market has been stable for about a year. I'm seeing signs that things are picking up, as they do in the spring. There are a lot of homes to choose from.

Kathleen VonHatten: Lake Point is doing well. I'm new to the board and excited to try to grow our business in Lake Point.

Brittany Lopez: Rachelle and I have been appointed by the Council to work on energy. We have adopted an ordinance to allow for any type of energy to come into our community. We did an energy overlay zone. We continue to work with the state and GOEO to work through the process. This would allow for if a company came to us and wanted to connect another type of energy into the infrastructure, we would have to go through the energy commission to get approval. No other county has done this, so we keep hitting dead ends. We have our GIS team putting floodplains, power & gas lines on one map to try to identify parcels. The state doesn't have guidelines yet. We're continuing to work on this. Ryan stated he has a shapefile he will send for the GIS team showing where BLM wants to put solar and other things.

John Perez: Lots of big announcements are coming in the retail world. It's very exciting.

6. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie Bagwell. Time of adjournment was 4:06 pm