

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 14, 2016

Public Meeting for the Sedan Floral Tax Abatement Application

Chairman Goff Searl called the public meeting to order on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the courthouse. Commissioner Jack Carpenter and Danny Williams were present as was County Counselor, Ruth Ritthaler and County Clerk Janice A. Fine.

The public attending the meeting included: Lois Terning, Janet Evans, Crystal Wade, Gary Cude', Myra Creel, Lillian Roosevelt, Dave Monroe, Shawn Butler, Rodney Shaw and Becky Williams.

Chairman Searl offered that commissioners had received a letter in support of this Tax Abatement for Sedan Floral from Farm Bureau President Butch Lewis. Attached was also a report in support from that board of directors.

There was a brief overview of Sedan Florals anticipated new building and production. Sedan Floral has applied for a ten year tax abatement on new construction through the State of Kansas Tax Abatement Program.

Commissioners commented that they were pleased the Jonathan Cude' approached them for any program to benefit them rather than moving this operation out of state. Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor offered that the cost benefit analysis was produced through the Economic Development Division from Wichita State University and showed a positive impact to USD 286, the City of Sedan and Chautauqua County.

Chairman Searl asked Cude' to explain the current progress on the new construction and offered renderings of the new construction to the citizens in attendance. Cude' offered that approximately 60% of the foundation work is complete. Erecting the steel will be the next phase and the heating and cooling will be the most critical part of the construction and will take time to get it right. Jonathan Cude's mission is to have the new facility ready for the next growing season.

Questions from the citizens in attendance included:

Wade asked if the new employees would be local. Gary Cude' offered that with every open position they try to fill it with local people. The issue is the work is very demanding and local folks tend to work a day and not show up for day two. Cude' offered that they employ 45 individuals and for the last opening they only received five applications.

Creel asked how much of current workers salary goes back to Mexico. Cude' offered that he would not have a definite figure but his employees have families to support and they do purchase local for necessities for the ten months they are here. Cude' also offered that the business can not purchase local for all production items but they do have local utilities. Cude' offered that the growing pots are manufactured in the USA but the growing mix comes from Canada.

Chairman Searl asked if there were any other questions.

Ruth Ritthaler, County Counselor offered that the Sedan Floral application and cost benefit analysis was available if anyone would like to review it.

Chairman Searl offered that the resolution would be presented at the next commission meeting and the expectation is that it would be approved. The next step would be to submit all the documentation to the State's Court of Tax Appeal for their approval.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Goff Searl, Chairman, First District Commissioner

Danny D. Williams, Second District Commissioner

Jack Carpenter, Third District Commissioner

ATTEST:

Janice A. Fine, County Clerk