

# SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1003

Office: (563) 326-8749  
Fax: (563) 328-3285  
www.scottcountyiowa.com



---

CAROL EARNHARDT, Chair  
TONY KNOBBE, Vice-Chair  
KEN BECK  
DIANE HOLST  
BRINSON KINZER

June 29, 2017

Mayor Marty O' Boyle  
Eldridge City Council Members  
Eldridge City Hall  
305 North Third Street  
Eldridge, Iowa 52748

**RE:** City of Eldridge's proposed Amendment #3 to the City's Urban Renewal Area Plan to use TIF income as an economic development incentive for Lewis Machine and Tool proposed manufacturing facility and for capital projects related to the upgrading of road and intersection improvements to First Street and LeClaire Road and the City's 2 mile rails to trails project.

Dear Mayor O'Boyle and Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment #3 to the City of Eldridge's Unified Urban Renewal Plan. The Scott County Board of Supervisors has reviewed the materials submitted by City Administrator John Dowd.

On three previous occasions, March, 2000, May, 2012, and October, 2016 when the City has been required to give the Board an Opportunity to Consult on amendments to the City's Urban Renewal Areas (URA) and the proposed URA plans, the Scott County Board of Supervisors has stated that it encourages the use of tax increment financing to be limited to redeveloping and revitalizing blighted areas with a history of declining property values or for attracting new or expanded industrial development. The Board has consistently supported the use of tax increment financing as an incentive for the retention and creation of primary jobs. The Board has also always recommended that all tax increment financing be for the minimum dollar amount to make any project feasible while also being for the shortest possible duration.

In this case, the Board does support the use of TIF as an economic development incentive for Lewis Machine and Tool because we understand it is necessary in order to retain this business in the Quad Cities and allow them to expand in the City of Eldridge. However, it is the City's proposed use of TIF in funding approximately \$2.1M of the budget for street and intersection upgrades and \$815K of the budget for a recreational trail the Board believes it must state its concerns and objections. The Board would note that a portion of those TIF funds are generated by the County's tax levy and should be used in accordance with TIF projects cited above or if not, then be returned to the County, to be deposited in the County's General Fund for the benefit of all County residents.

On the previous three occasions the Board commented and again now, the Board of Supervisors encourages the City of Eldridge to limit its use of TIF dollars for reversing blight or as an incentive for industrial development that has direct benefits to the local economy and not for capital improvements for public infrastructure that should be borne by the residents and City of Eldridge and not supported with revenue generated by the County's property tax levy. While the Board of Supervisors recognizes the City of Eldridge has no legal obligation to comply with our request, we hope in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation the City Council would seriously consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Earnhardt".

Carol Earnhardt, Chairman  
Scott County Board of Supervisors

cc: Scott County Board of Supervisors  
North Scott School District Board  
Joe Stutting, North Scott School District Superintendent  
John Dowd, Eldridge City Administrator  
Mahesh Sharma, Scott County Administrator