

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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KEN BECK, Chair
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August 4, 2022

Mayor Dennis Gerard
LeClaire City Council Members
LeClaire City Hall
325 Wisconsin Street
LeClaire, IA 52753

RE: City of LeClaires's proposed amendment to LeClaire Urban Renewal Area #1 and creation of Rodgers 1st Addition Urban Renewal Plan in order to authorize the use of tax increment financing for a commercial redevelopment.

Dear Mayor Gerard:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of LeClaire's most recent proposed amendment to its Urban Renewal Area Plan, as well as the creation of the Rodgers 1st Addition Urban Renewal Plan. The Scott County Board of Supervisors has reviewed the information provided by your City Staff. The Board supports the use of Tax Increment Financing when it is used as an economic development incentive for businesses adding primary jobs that strengthen the local and regional economy. It is understood that the development agreement associated with the new Rodgers 1st Addition Plan will facilitate the construction of a full service grocery store, something that the City of LeClaire currently lacks. While LeClaire is not officially labeled as a "food desert" by the USDA, it could certainly be considered a low food access location and this project is a great addition for the residents of LeClaire.

While Dennis Bockenstedt has commented that no public improvements are planned with the grocery store or commercial outlot project, the plan does show public improvements as a possible cost that could be reimbursed with this money. It should be pointed out that the Board does not support the use of TIF money to fund public improvements. The plan also includes the details on a commercial outlot building that will be developed with TIF incentives. In regards to this building, the Board is opposed to the use of TIF as an economic development incentive for retail or service sector businesses that compete with other existing businesses for the same Quad Cities Area markets.

The Scott County Board of Supervisors wants to continue the spirit of cooperation with the City of LeClaire on economic development projects and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Ken Beck, Chair
Scott County Board of Supervisors

cc: Scott County Board of Supervisors
Mahesh Sharma, Scott County Administrator
Dennis Bockenstedt, LeClaire City Administrator