

***Pulaski County Economic Development***  
*(Pulaski County Community Development Commission)*

Tuesday, 9 September 2014

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex  
Winamac, Indiana

**Meeting Minutes**

Members present: President Bill Champion, Vice-President Lawrence Loehmer, Secretary Dave Zeltwanger, Membership Officer Krysten Hinkle, executive-board member Andrew Fritz; County Commissioner Larry Brady, Medaryville Council President Derrick Stalbaum, Winamac Council President John E. Plowman; Becky Anspach. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Assistant Terry Howard.

Members absent: County Councilor Doug Roth [work-related], Amy Jo Cantu (Chamber) [scheduling conflict], Jamie Bales (Francesville) [scheduling conflict]; Greg Comoglio [scheduling conflict], Gregg Malott [work-related].

Guests present: Sam Maule (Crane + Grey), Marc Oestreich (same).

**Call to Order**

President Champion called the meeting to order at 7:00 *p.m.*

**Consent Agenda**

With no requests for extraction having been made, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

**Community Reports**

- Mrs. Hinkle: Nothing to report at this time.
- Vice-President Loehmer: Loehmer's Hardware & Farm Supply remains busy, though business has slowed slightly since school started. Monterey Days met with good attendance, satisfied vendors, and happy children.
- Mr. Fritz: It is highly unlikely that many farmers will be able to begin harvesting in the month of September. Much of the corn and beans in the fields remain green, and the fields themselves are wet.
- Mrs. Anspach: The Star City Regional Sewer District is struggling to collect past-due payments from residents. Solutions are currently being considered, but there is no word on what the answer may be.
- Mr. Stalbaum: Medaryville received a Community Focus Fund grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for its wastewater lagoon project, but has run into some difficulties that are being addressed. The Town Council was advised to seek SRF funding for the local match, but OCRA was under the impression that the Town would sell bonds. The Town is still in the process of purchasing land from the American Legion in order to maintain the baseball field for youth teams.
- Secretary Zeltwanger: DK & Sons is in the midst of a fall rush and is staying very busy. The Francesville Fall Festival is coming up in the third weekend of September, though local news outlets have reported that it's a week earlier than is correct.
- Commissioner Brady: The commissioners are constantly addressing new issues as they crop up. At the moment, their focus is on purchasing a replacement ambulance while trying to recoup as much money as possible from the insurance on the previous ambulance. In October, Commissioner Brady will be leading an entrepreneurship workshop for disabled veterans at Purdue through a program titled "The New Greatest Generation."
- Mr. Plowman: The Winamac Town Council approved a project to rebuild the electric infrastructure to the west of town. The project will replace all the poles and lines, cost about \$500,000 per phase, and take place in four phases over four years, with the Town replacing 100 poles each year. The Town did not approve pool renovation, but is looking into constructing a splash pad either at Rhinehart Park or as part of the Winamac Parkway.

- President Champion: Fratco continues to stay busy. An old blow-molding machine was sold to make room for another injection-molding machine. This will allow the company to continue to grow and possibly to implement new products.

### Old Business

*PC-CARE engineering study:* Territorial Engineering (TE) is making progress on the third site, with which the engineers have expressed pleasure. Director Origer asked it would be beneficial to have another presentation on those findings, or if the report and a brief explanation provided by the director would suffice. Commissioner Brady expressed his belief that, after seeing the first presentation, asking TE to return would be unnecessary; this was the consensus.

*Pulaski County Young Professionals Network:* Work on the YPN has been superseded by other projects since the last meeting, but Director Origer still hopes to pitch the idea to various organizations around the county. The goal as of now is to have a core group of members invested in the project by the end of the year. Director Origer also raised the possibility of receiving funding for the project from a new Community Foundation grant application with the Lilly Foundation. Secretary Zeltwanger expressed his encouragement for the project and urged Director Origer to continue pushing for interest in the community. Commissioner Brady also shared a personal anecdote about the passion of the youth he has observed while substitute teaching.

*2014 Summit:* The Business Ownership Basics workshop presented by the ISBDC and PCED has attracted a lot of interest and expects 15-20 attendees. The session would be taking place on Tuesday, 16 September at 6:30, at the Pulaski County Public Library - Winamac. The non-profits summit had been scheduled for 22 October. PCED would be sending out invitations for the event by week's end; the speaker/facilitator, location, and caterer had all been secured. On 23 September, Director Origer would be attending a meeting at the Center of Workforce Innovations to learn more about their programs such as "READY NWI," which is targeted at getting into the schools and making sure students are ready to enter the workforce. They also would be strongly promoting their Manufacturing Day programming. On 2 October, Director Origer and Commissioner Brady would be attending a regional conference in Valparaiso, put on by OCRA, to learn more about the programs that the organization offers that might benefit Pulaski County.

*Blight Elimination Program grant application:* Having received letter of support from PCED for its application for the Blight Elimination Program grant, the Department of Building and Zoning request that PCED with local-match funding for the project. Several members expressed reluctance given that none of the properties under consideration would offer economic-development potential. No action was taken.

*Additional appropriation for zoning ordinance:* The director presented a proposal from RATIO Architects for the updating of the County's zoning ordinance, the transfer of funds necessary for said project having been approved. Director Origer expressed his looking forward to working with the firm, and President Champion acknowledged having reviewed the proposal and had no concerns. The director asked that the proposal be approved before he should present it to the Advisory Plan Commission.

**Motion to approve: Mrs. Hinkle; second: Mr. Plowman; no discussion; approval: all save Secretary Zeltwanger and Mr. Stalbaum, who opposed. Motion carried.**

*Pulaski Online – Crane + Grey presentation:* Messrs. Maule and Oestreich presented the almost-finished overhaul of the Pulaski County Website. The presentation began with a reminder of what the old Website looks like, as well as examples of award-winning County Websites to compare with our new site. The new *Pulaski Online* compares very favorably to the 'sites of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Alameda County, California, in both design and usability of features. Crane + Grey drew inspiration from the incredibly successful *Pure Michigan* campaign in their design of the new Website. The design is very pleasing to the eye, with beautiful pictures of sites around Pulaski County in the headers. It is based on the WordPress multisite platform, which allows the Pulaski County 'site to separate into several different sub-sites under the same domain name. This allows the sites to be more specialized to what a particular user actually cares about, without making him sort through extraneous information. Crane + Grey uses eye-tracking algorithms to create a design that emphasizes readability and efficiency. Messrs. Maule and Oestreich took PCED through a detailed virtual tour of the microsites, highlighting various features, e.g., the Downloads page, where all County downloads will be aggregated and tagged so the user can easily search for a specific

document, or browse all available items. After the presentation, they opened up the floor for questions. Secretary Zeltwanger asked about the official launch date, to which Mr. Maule replied with a tentative suggestion of another month. The design of the 'site is finished, but there is a lot of content still to be added. The launch date depends on whether PCED and Crane + Grey decide to launch pages as they finish or to wait until the entire 'site is finished before rolling it out. Mrs. Anspach had several suggestions pertaining to design and content, and PCED and Crane + Grey took her input under advisement for the implementation of content. Overall, it was an extremely detailed and informative presentation, and the members expressed its thanks to Messrs. Maule and Oestreich for their time.

New Business

None.

Other Pertinent Business

*Business Plan Competition:* Secretary Zeltwanger asked for an update on this. Now in its third year at Winamac Community High School, the competition currently features six teams would finish at the end of the semester. On his next visit to the school, Director Origer would be accompanied by Brad Conn, who would be discussing ways to market small businesses with the students.

*Solar Park:* Mr. Plowman added that the Winamac Town Council discussed with the director, in his role as a member of the Pulaski County Advisory Commission on Industrial Affairs, the possibility of developing an Indiana Municipal Power Agency solar park to Pulaski County in the next several years.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

**Motion: Commissioner Brady; second: Vice-President Loehmer; no discussion; approval: all. 8:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Zeltwanger, Secretary