

Pulaski County Economic Development
(Pulaski County Community Development Commission)

Tuesday, 7 April 2015

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Members present: President Bill Champion, Secretary Gregg Malott, Membership Officer Larry Brady (County Commissioner), executive-board member John Plowman (Winamac); Amy Jo Cantu (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville); Natalie Federer, Andrew Fritz, Annie Scholz, Dave Zeltwanger. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Members absent: Vice-President Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); County Councilor Doug Roth, Medaryville Town Council President Derrick Stalbaum [work]; Becky Anspach, Greg Comoglio [personal].

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. Cantu: The Chamber has begun its hanging-basket fundraiser, which it assumed from the now-defunct Town & Country Women. Vendors are being solicited for Germanfest. At the recent annual banquet, the Chamber recognized H.J. Halleck Award recipient Judy Stinemetz.
- Commissioner Brady: The County is preparing for 2016 budgeting. The Commissioners expect soon to receive Highway Superintendent Mark Fox's resignation, and there is some disagreement regarding proceeding with hiring his replacement.
- Mr. Zeltwanger: The brick pizza oven that he demonstrated in September is available for sale. He would be travelling soon to North Carolina for a professional conference, and DK & Sons is busily lining up spring work. His son would be returning to Kansas, so the company would be looking for help soon. The AutoBarn had vacated its U.S.-421 facility, and Agrisol Equipment had occupied the space.
- Mr. Plowman: Link Environment Equipment had entered into a partnership for its service department, deciding to focus more on sales and parts; Two Guys Mechanical, under new ownership, would be taking on Link's service responsibilities and operating on Link's campus.
- Mr. Fritz: He and other farmers would be planting soon; budget forecasts are not attractive this year. In recent months, he had traveled to Phoenix and elsewhere for farm shows.
- Ms. Federer: Fair planning is underway, with an informational brochure to be mailed in early May; a tractor pull would be returning this year. Programming with the Soil & Water Conservation District has been occurring. A new agricultural educator had been hired; he would start on 1 May.
- Mrs. Mellon: The Francesville Town Council is still seeking a town marshal. Heartland Market has been well received in town since purchasing Curts IGA. The Lincoln Funeral Memorial Train had been secured for the 2015 Francesville Fall Festival; the original train had stopped briefly in Francesville on its way to Springfield, Illinois.
- Secretary Malott: Pulaski Memorial has been keeping busy; recent physician and surgeon additions have worked out well. Planning for the annual Health Fair, to take place on 16 May, has been underway. Improving marketing of what services are available locally is an ongoing effort of the Hospital's.
- Mrs. Scholz: Alliance Bank recently launched its online-billpay feature. They're wrapping up farm lines of credit for the spring. She was recently promoted to loan officer. Youth baseball has begun on the west side.
- President Champion: Fratco has been extremely busy, an office-remodeling project is underway, and the company is now using red fittings with its injection-molding line as a sort of "trademark" for Fratco products.

Old Business

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: Mrs. Hinkle provided an update, noting that an introductory meeting and two work sessions had taken place thus far. The community survey had been launched, and a community forum would be occurring on 7 May. Thereafter, the “real work” would begin, including discerning with finality the appropriate building block for Pulaski County.

CAGIT-rate issue: Director Origer proposed not seeking to have the Indiana Code changed to allow the special Justice Center CAGIT to be used toward lease payments, and indeed to work with the Commissioners, Council, and Sheriff to determine how much the rate could be decreased, and then to establish new two property taxes, one for the proposed Redevelopment Commission, and the other for the Advisory Commission on Industrial Development, at rates that create approximately the same annual revenue as would be lost to a cut to the CAGIT rate. He noted that all of this could be done locally, without legislation, and that it could help, ever so slightly, to bring down our highest-in-the-state local income-tax rate. The consensus was for him to begin conversations about this proposal with elected officials

Establishment of a Redevelopment Commission: Director Origer reported that the projects that had made expediting this process necessary had fallen through, so he had been focusing elsewhere, but that he still wishes to move forward quickly.

RLF financial administration: The review committee, at its meeting earlier in the evening, recommended that the CDC approve contracting with the Regional Development Company (RDC) to provide financial-administration services for the County’s Revolving Loan Fund. Mr. Zeltwanger pointed out that having a third party would avoid any chance for conflict of interest; Secretary Malott seconded these sentiments, emphasizing the ability to avoid any emotional consideration that may arise when local bankers are involved on the loan committee. Mr. Plowman noted his support for involving the RDC. Director Origer was instructed to proceed.

Motion: Mr. Plowman; second: Mr Fritz; no discussion; approval: all.

Other Pertinent Business

Young Professionals Organization: Mr. Zeltwanger enquired as to the status of this project. Director Origer reported that he and Mrs. Hinkle would be meeting with the committee over luncheon at Tippy’s on Friday, at which time a contingent of young professionals from the Braun Corporation likely would be lunching. Mrs. Scholz asked how ‘young’ is defined; the director reported that the age range is roughly 22-40.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Secretary Malott; second: Mr. Fritz; no discussion; approval: all. 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Malott, Secretary