

Pulaski County Economic Development
(Pulaski County Community Development Commission)

Tuesday, 2 June 2015

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Members present: President Bill Champion, Vice-President Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey), Secretary Gregg Malott, Membership Officer Larry Brady (County Commissioner), executive-board member John Plowman (Winamac); Darlene Mellon (Francesville); Greg Comoglio, Andrew Fritz, Dave Zeltwanger; Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Members absent: County Councilor Doug Roth, Amy Jo Cantu (Chamber) [scheduling conflict]; Rebecca Anspach, Natalie Federer [work-related], Annie Scholz [scheduling conflict].

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

- Secretary Malott: Pulaski Memorial Hospital has just launched a new leadership strategic initiative. The Hospital would be partnering with Pulaski County's insurers and other businesses on a wellness program, in order to help to cut benefit costs.
- Mrs. Mellon: Francesville received seven applications for town marshal and those have been narrowed to two applicants. She expects the Town to make an employment offer during the next meeting. AgriSol has, by all accounts, been successful and surpassed expectations in its infancy. The Francesville Fall Festival Committee has raised enough funds to bring a replica of the Lincoln Funeral Train to the Festival as a showpiece. There has been much interest and support both locally and from out-of-state.
- Mr. Comoglio: All three plants of Plymouth Tube has been adversely affected by downward trends in the oil and natural-gas industries. As a result, leadership is making plans to diversify, which will take some time. Currently, however, they've had to enact short-term layoffs and salary reductions, and to offer early retirement. He stated that, while discouraging, will be worked through and will likely be stronger as a result of diversifying.
- Mr. Fritz: The spring planting is completed, with no re-plant having to take place at this time. Prices dove during planting, but rose again (slightly) in the past week. Pulaski County is looking fair or above-average for this season.
- Mr. Zeltwanger: DK & Sons put on a pizza-oven demonstration at KitchenArt in West Lafayette recently, with great response and a number of potentially interested buyers. Most projects lined-up this season are restoration work. Mr. Zeltwanger is in need of a laborer.
- Commissioner Brady: The County is preparing for 2016 budgeting. The commissioners have received a notice from the Animal Control Officer that she would be resigning effective 13 June; the Pulaski County Sheriff would be advertising to fill the position. Commissioner Brady's brother, Dr. Garry Brady, has been authorized to take in VA patients, who formerly have had to travel to Lafayette to receive care. Commissioner Brady also clarified details of the Monterey building collapse and future clean-up.
- Vice-President Loehmer: The street where the building collapsed in downtown Monterey is still closed. The hardware store is busy right now.
- Mr. Plowman: Safe Routes to School is breaking ground. The trail will reach State Road 14 West by autumn. The transition of Link Environmental's service department to Two Guys Mechanical has been successful. There has been more business because of the increase in staff in that department. IMPA is pursuing a solar farm in Winamac and is currently working infrastructure and acquisition.
- President Champion: FRATCO recently underwent changes and business is going well, recently adding a third salesman, who will be broadening the Iowa sales territory into Missouri. Production has increased this year over last year, and they anticipate possibly adding another injection mold. They will be hosting an open house for clients in July.

Old Business

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: Mrs. Hinkle stated that the placemaking building-block had been chosen by the team. A conference call would take place on 10 June, before the team would reconvene in late July to start working with Sharon Canaday, of Ball State Building Better Communities regarding placemaking in Pulaski County.

RLF financial administration: The administration of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) by the Regional Development Company had been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney and Commissioners. Director Origer noted that any loan request for fewer than \$20,000 would be handled by a traditional *ad hoc* RLF committee; larger requests would be reviewed and scored by the RDC, and then by a CDC committee, before a final decision from the Commissioners.

Motion: Mr. Zeltwanger; second: Commissioner Brady; no discussion; approval: all.

CAGIT-rate issue: Director Origer proposed initiating discussion between County Commissioners, County Council, Sheriff Richwine, and the County Prosecutor regarding cutting the rate for now and establishing one or two commission-specific property-tax levies, rather than attempting to have the Indiana Code altered.

Establishment of a Redevelopment Commission: Director Origer stated that while some of the projects that would have benefitted from an RDC have fallen through, he's still working toward establishing the commission.

PC-CARE: Director Origer proposed that the PC-CARE Committee reconvene to study the reports that have been drawn up and to start reaching out to landowners. Director Origer then asked President Champion to approve adding one additional member so as to avoid having an even number of committee members. Mr. Loehmer agreed to become a member of the PC-CARE committee.

New Business

2016-budget draft: Director Origer presented a line-by-line comparison of the 2014 and 2015 budgets (with various transfers, additional appropriations, and encumbrances noted) and his proposal for 2015. Providing explanations for any deviations from previous years' amounts, he offered synopses of the various appropriations' uses. The director having noted that the Executive Board had instructed him to increase the requested appropriation for the Equipment line item, Commissioner Brady explained that office upgrades should be prioritized, particularly on the multimedia front, and Mr. Zeltwanger seconded this sentiment; Director Origer noted that purchasing a new computer in 2016 may be prudent. The budget was approved as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Brady; second: Mr. Zeltwanger; no discussion; approval: all.

Other Pertinent Business

Warrior Den restaurant: Responding to a question from Commissioner Brady, Director Origer explained that Sheila Hazemi had contacted him about aborting the plan to open the new restaurant that had received RLF monies. Ms. Hazemi had not spent any of the monies yet and returned the check, citing that her father, a main supporter, could not support her at this time in such a way that would ensure success.

Regional affiliation: Mrs. Hinkle recently attended an Indiana's Technology Corridor (ITC) meeting, in which she reported that she felt unsure as to whether membership in this group is benefitting Pulaski County. Director Origer added that PCED is currently affiliated with two groups: the Northwest Indiana Forum (NIF) and ITC. Director Origer explained that NIF has paid staff dedicated to the group, and PCED has received leads from them. ITC has no staff and, other than sales trips, PCED is not receiving any services that NIF is not providing. Additionally, he stated that PCED has paid dues with ITC through 2015. Discussion ensued. It was concluded that when dues need to be paid, further discussion would take place.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Plowman; second: Secretary Malott; no discussion; approval: all. 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg Malott, Secretary