

Pulaski County Economic Development
(Pulaski County Community Development Commission)

Tuesday, 5 January 2016

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

By-laws Special Session

Members present: President Bill Champion, Secretary Gregg Malott, Membership Officer Larry Brady (Commissioner); Darlene Mellon (Francesville), Carolyn Hager (Medaryville); Natalie Federer, Andrew Fritz, Annie Scholz, Dave Zeltwanger. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Members absent: Vice-President Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey), Executive Board member John Plowman (Winamac) [medical]; County Councilor Doug Roth [family medical], Amy Jo Cantu (Chamber); Becky Anspach.

Call to Order

President Champion called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

New Business

Proposed changes to by-laws: Proposed changes to the by-laws were read in detail by Director Origer. Discussion ensued.

Motion to accept: Commissioner Brady; second: Secretary Malott; no discussion; approval: all.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Zeltwanger; second: Commissioner Brady; no discussion; approval: all. 6:05p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Members present: As noted above; Vice-President Loehmer arrived at 6:35p.m.

Members absent: As noted above, save Vice-President Loehmer.

Call to Order

President Champion called the meeting to order at 6:15p.m.

Consent Agenda

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

Community Reports

- Mrs. Mellon: The Town of Francesville is in the process of procuring snow plow equipment and generators to ensure lift stations are operable during power outages.
- Ms. Federer: Purdue Extension is hosting an agriculture financial workshop on risk management, along with working with the CDC on a county-wide leadership development program and their annual meeting, which will be held on 25 February. She added that preschool literacy program is also coming up and that 4-H enrollment ends 15 January
- Mrs. Scholz: This is the beginning of the loan renewal season at Alliance Bank.
- Commissioner Brady: Last night marked the annual appointment/re-appointment of county department heads. The commissioners voted to not renew the reappointment of the current building inspector and will therefore be advertising for that position in the near future. The Sheriff's Department will also be undergoing personnel changes.
- Mr. Zeltwanger: Mr. Zeltwanger has been able to work on masonry projects due to the mild winter, although his recent venture into snow removal has suffered.
- Mrs. Hager: The new Town Council will begin meeting the third week of January, although there has been some talk regarding moving the day of the week in which the meeting is held. The new day should appear in the newspaper soon. The library is closed. Town debris

removal is going well. Mrs. Hager also noted that she would be moving to Jasper County and, thus, resigning from the CDC effective 31 January.

- **President Champion:** Fratco has had the second-best year in the company's history. The recent power outage is the second time this year Fratco has gone two days without power, and, consequently, the company is exploring the purchase of a propane-fueled generator.

Old Business

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: After giving an overview of the year-long HCI process, Director Origer announced that the capstone project, in conjunction with the creation of a functioning tourism strategic plan and the establishment of a tourism advisory committee, will be county-wide marked bicycle routes, connecting each of the four municipalities of Pulaski County. Discussion and details of the plan ensued. Commissioner Brady and Mrs. Mellon both noted that the process is easily applicable to future projects and that everybody gained an invaluable set of tools and resources from the HCI process.

PC-CARE: Director Origer reported that one of the sibling-owners of the property, who lives out-of-state, was home for Christmas and now is reviewing the appraisal. Director Origer hopes to hear back from the family within the next week or two. Discussion regarding funding options for the project ensued.

Career and Technical Education curriculum grant: The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has agreed to grant Pulaski County a one-year extension, which means that the first two semesters of coursework are within the grant cycle. Director Origer added that the DWD also granted a budget modification to allow some monies to pay for the unexpected salary of a qualified instructor, while the Indian Trails Career Cooperative has agreed to pay for the \$20,000 difference in equipment. Private monies donated from local manufacturers and CDC monies were also used to help to close the gap. Discussion ensued.

Starke/Pulaski Workforce Development Program grant: \$250,000 was awarded from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to develop a maintenance and automation program for manufacturing employees in Pulaski County (and others). Director Origer described the program as a "next step up" for students who have completed the RAM-TECH program and also current manufacturing employees who do not wish to seek academic credit for such coursework.

Term renewals/new members: Director Origer would send a letter requesting representation to the Medaryville Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer there, as made necessary by Mrs. Hager's resignation. The Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce seat will also need to be filled. Director Origer would also be seeking recommendations from local manufacturers for the newly-designated non-exempt labor position.

New Business

2016 Summit/20th-anniversary celebration: Director Origer would prepare the 2015-2016 CDC accomplishments list prior to the February meeting. The Summit would be held on Tuesday, 1 March, with the annual business meeting starting at 6:30p.m., and the event following at 7:00p.m. at the Winamac Event Center. Bill Konyha, former Economic Development Director for Wabash County and current Executive Director for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, would be the keynote speaker. Commissioner Brady suggested inviting him earlier in the day for discussion and a tour of Pulaski County. A discussion of details in planning the event ensued.

Other Pertinent Business

Indiana Bicentennial: As a part of the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay, Pulaski County would be hosting a festival to commemorate the event. "TorchFest", as it will be called, will occur as the torch comes through Winamac, on the afternoon of 7 October and continue at least until midnight, 8 October. This also likely falls on National Manufacturing Day, and discussion ensued regarding a possible exhibit on items manufactured in Pulaski County. Details would be forthcoming.

Revolving Loan Fund: Director Origer questioned how the board would handle the larger loan requests reviewed by the Regional Development Company (RDC), noting that, in the past, all loans would be reviewed by a five-person committee. Smaller loans would continue to be handled by an *ad hoc* committee, while it was decided that those analyzed by the RDC would be considered by the Commission as a whole.

Motion: Mr. Zeltwanger; second: Mrs. Mellon; no discussion; approval: all.

Planning/zoning administration: Due to Director Origer's involvement in the Unified Development Ordinance and long-time role as an advisor to the Advisory Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, along with his education and experience in matters pertaining to zoning and land use, it was asked of the Commission their thoughts on Director Origer assuming, at least for a one-year trial, the planning-/zoning-administration roles previously handled by the recently terminated County Building Inspector. Much discussion ensued. By consensus, the members greenlit the director's plan to express his interest to the Plan Commission.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Brady; second: Mrs. Hager; no discussion; approval: all.
7:13p.m.

Krysten Hinkle, Project Coordinator/Administrative Secretary
Gregg Malott, Executive Secretary