

Pulaski County Economic Development
(Pulaski County Community Development Commission)

Tuesday, 4 April 2017

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Members present: President Gregg Malott, Executive Secretary John Plowman (Winamac), executive-board member Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville); Bill Champion, Doug Hoffman, Ross Davis, Samantha Williams. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Laura Wheeler (Commissioners) arrived at 6:02*p.m.*, Membership Officer Doug Roth (County Council) arrived at 6:04*p.m.*, and Vice-President Annie Scholz arrived at 6:05*p.m.*

Members absent: Medaryville Town Councilor Suzanna Wilcoxon [personal]; Beth Grund, Dave Zeltwanger [business].

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: The first Tourism Advisory Council meeting had been held two weeks prior, with about a dozen attendees. Director Origer had slowly been making progress finishing the bike-routes project.

2017 tourism marketing: The Commissioners finally had approved the \$4,500 online-only Chicagoland package; the ads would be starting soon. Facebook boosted ads had created a significant increase in interaction and website traffic for a few days; they would be run intermittently throughout summer. Print and digital advertising would soon begin in the Fort Wayne market.

RAM-Tech program: The State recently had approved a second one-year extension along with a budget modification so that local-match money expended pay the instructor would meet the grant requirements. The program would need to raise about \$2,000 to cover unanticipated Community Foundation administration fees.

2017 strategic visioning: Director Origer requested the establishment of a committee to review the 2010 strategic plan and to consider on what the staff should be focusing its energies in light of what have and haven't been accomplished from the plan and current goings-on in the community. Vice-President Scholz, Mr. Roth, Mr. Champion, and Mr. Davis agreed to serve.

Wage-and-benefit survey: The committee would be meeting later in the month to finish the survey prior to approval by the full Human Resource Group and distribution.

Adopt-a-River program: Dave and Connie Scott would be willing to adopt access points that they use. Staff would be working toward an early-summer implementation of the program.

Leadership Pulaski County: The committee had been targeting a fall class; staff would be contacting local businesses regarding employee participation and potential scholarships, as well as scouting potential venues for class sessions.

PC-CARE: County Council President Jay Sullivan favors moving forward with the project, and he, Director Origer, and a county commissioner would be meeting with a potential tenant to review options for development pending the potential tenant's ability to commit. Mr. Sullivan has expressed interest in pursuing a grant for the project, but the director has expressed hesitance regarding the use of a grant for land acquisition. interested in pursuing a grant. Discussion ensued.

New Business

2018 budget: In response to the director's solicitation for guidance, the members recommended that the draft budget that he would be presenting to the Executive Board in May remain fairly close to the 2017 adopted budget.

Tax-abatement process: Director Origer sought approval to move forward with developing an application form, establishing a review committee, and setting a small application fee for tax-

abatement requests, pending approval from the County Council and Winamac Town Council. Discussion ensued, and consensus favored the project.

Other Pertinent Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Secretary Plowman; second: Mr. Champion; no discussion; approval: all. 7:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Krysten Hinkle, Project Coordinator/Administrative Secretary
John Plowman, Executive Secretary