

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 6 June 2017
Monterey Town Hall
Monterey, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Members present: President Gregg Malott, Membership Officer Doug Roth (County Council), executive-board member Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville); Beth Grund, Doug Hoffman, Samantha Williams. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle, summer intern Hagin Hiatt.

Members absent: Vice-President Annie Scholz [personal], Executive Secretary John Plowman (Winamac) [business]; Laura Wheeler (Commissioners); Bill Champion [business], Ross Davis [business] Dave Zeltwanger [business]. Summer intern Jessica Wagner [personal/not required].

Call to Order

President Malott called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. In the absence of Secretary Plowman, Mr. Roth agreed to serve in that capacity temporarily.

Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

Hometown Collaboration Initiative: One of two INDOT permits required for including sections of State highways in the bike-route network had been granted, and Director Origer had been working on securing the second. A Tourism Advisory Council meeting would be scheduled shortly to discuss developing a tourism brochure and other issues.

2017 tourism marketing: Four weekend-getaway packages had been put together in partnership with local tourism businesses for a television-channel giveaway in Fort Wayne, with many of the components having been donated or provided at a discount.

Director Origer reported tourism-website statistics, comparing views from April, May, and June 2016 to April, May, and June 2017. April traffic had dropped 72.4 percent from 2016 to 2017, May visits had decreased by 11 percent, and June visits were trending toward a decrease of almost 30 percent. Staff speculated that 2016 numbers had been positively impacted by the televised commercials, which County Commissioners had forbidden this year. Facebook advertising had been quite effective, with March 2017 having seen the most website hits; however, Facebook likes and shares indicated that a substantial portion of that traffic had been local, although a number of Chicagoland residents also had reacted to the Facebook video. Facebook marketing would be undertaken again throughout the summer.

RAM-Tech program: Fourteen of 32 students had received industry certifications; 31 had earned Ivy Tech credits. Director Origer had not yet received an update on fall-semester scheduling.

2017 strategic visioning: Committee members had reviewed the 2010 strategic plan and provided feedback; the director would be scheduling a committee meeting.

Wage-and-benefit survey: The wage-and-benefit survey had been completed except for part of one question, which would be completed by the end of the following week.

Adopt-a-River program: The volunteer application had been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, but a reply had not yet been received; sign posts and domed trash cans had been ordered, and signs would soon be printed. Volunteers would need to be found to adopt each public-access site, and this would be discussed at the forthcoming Tourism Advisory Council meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the practicality of installing recycling receptacles at the access points, but it seemed to be an unfortunately burdensome project.

Leadership Pulaski County: Leadership Pulaski County has been pushed back until January 2018, instead of September 2017; corporate outreach had begun, with a number of large companies having expressed interest in providing scholarships to employees. Director Origer reiterated that the

CDC has \$2,000 in its donation fund set aside for the program. General public outreach would commence soon.

PC-CARE: Director Origer reported that three parties had expressed potential interest in developing at the proposed site; a meeting with elected officials and one of the parties would be scheduled for later in June.

2018 budget: Director Origer presented the executive-board–approved 2018 budget, noting that it largely mirrored the 2017 budget, save an increase of \$2,000 in the summer-intern line item. He noted that the Webhosting appropriation needed to be raised from \$550 to \$850 due to potentially changing hosts as well as the additional user-friendly redirect domains that had been purchased. Including a proposed 10-percent increase for full-time wages, the 2018 proposal, as amended, totaled \$11,103.60 more than the 2017 effective budget and \$82.60 more with no pay increases.

The budget proposal was approved as amended.

Motion: Mr. Paulsen; second: Mr. Roth; no discussion; approval: all

Tax-abatement process: The County Commissioners and Council and Winamac Town Council had all received this proposal positively, and Director Origer would begin working on the tax-abatement application and establishing the County and Town committees.

New Business

None.

Other Pertinent Business

Farmers' breakfast: The director announced that the CDC would be hosting a farmers' breakfast in August. An attorney recommended by John Keller would be the guest speaker, presenting on farm estate planning and ownership transition.

Business workshop: Wander Our Winamac's Economic Restructuring Committee, chaired by Director Origer, would be hosting an Indiana Small Business Development Center launch-your-own-business workshop at the Pulaski County Public Library late in June.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Mrs. Mellon; second: Mr. Hoffman; no discussion; approval: all. 6:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hagin Hiatt, Intern, Administrative Secretary *pro tempore*
Doug Roth, Executive Secretary *pro tempore*