

***Pulaski County  
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

former Monterey Elementary School  
Monterey, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Members present: President Gregg Malott, Vice-President Annie Scholz, Secretary Sheila Jimenez (Winamac), board member Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); County Commissioner Kenny Becker, County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville); Beth Grund, Tony Holliday, Samantha Williams. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Members absent: Membership Officer Doug Roth [personal]; Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville) [personal]; Doug Hoffman, Kyle Sefchek.

Guests: County Commissioner Jerry Locke, County Commissioner Mike McClure, County Building Inspector Doug Hoover, WKVI's Michael Gallenberger, Emily Albaugh, Jessica Craig, Doug Denton, Kelli Denton, Ray Franko, Kathy Franko, Aaron Gilley, Jessye Gilley, Melanie Holliday, Chuck Mellon, Steve Miller, Debbie Mix, Courtney Poor, Jim Potthoff, Renita Potthoff, Mark Rippy, Sandy Saltsman, Dawn Winebrenner, Robert Woods, Brian Young, Terry Young

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

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

Officer Election

Director Origer noted that Vice-President Scholz would be resigning effective immediately upon adjournment, and a new vice-president would have to be selected. Ms. Grund volunteered to accept the responsibility, nominations were closed, and her ascension was approved.

**Motion: Mr. Paulsen; second: Mr. Holliday; no discussion; approval: all.**

Old Business

*2017 strategic visioning/ Pulaski County tax-revenue concerns:* Director Origer presented an article, released by Larry DeBoer, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue, discussing the continuing decrease of base value for assessing the value of agricultural land and the subsequent revenue loss d for the County and extra burden on the non-agricultural tax base. The director stressed that, given that most of Pulaski County's land lies in agriculture, this will be yet another burden on the County's already worrisome financial situation.

*PC-CARE:* The project remains on hold pending a CSX decision to offload the rail line, and if they do, who the purchaser might be, or to retain it.

*Hometown Collaboration Initiative:* Director Origer stated that he continued to work closely with the Panhandle Pathway and progress would occur independent of State funding.

*RAM-Tech program:* Director Origer would be meeting with Ivy Tech and West Central personnel on the following day to determine which Department of Education courses could match the curriculum and thereby be eligible for dual credit. The group also continue to consider the possibility of employing an instructional aide for the program.

*Wage-and-benefit survey:* Given the low turnout of respondents, the director had downgraded the survey software to the free version, but the survey would remain open until the May Human Resources Group meeting.

*Leadership Pulaski County:* Mrs. Hinkle reported that the planning continued to move forward and that she had scheduled a meeting with Kris Parker of Purdue Extension.

*Tax-abatement process:* The Winamac Economic Development Commission had met once and would reconvene soon, taking up responsibility for tax-abatement-process revisions.

New Business

*Wind-energy development:* Director Origer stated that he had had one spontaneous meeting with wind developer RES Americas and had heard from a handful of local residents. He stated that

the tentative RES plan is to construct 34 wind turbines in southwestern Pulaski County. The company had filed for FAA clearance, but many of the specific details remained subject to change. Updates would be made to the Pulaski County Unified Development Ordinance by the Pulaski County Advisory Plan Commission, using scientific recommendations; the director would be working with the Town of Francesville to revive that community's plan commission and board of zoning appeals and to update their zoning regarding wind development, either by way of adopting the amended County ordinance or by way of amending the existing 1994 Francesville ordinance.

*Summer office intern(s):* The director presented two versions of the internship job description, with the main project being a new, updated tourism brochure for Pulaski County. No preferences were expressed between the two descriptions; Director Origer and Mrs. Hinkle would proceed with seeking one intern, and possibly a second depending on workload.

*Member development:* In light of the vice-president's pending resignation, a new member would have to be found. Origer thanked Vice-President Scholz for her service and requested that commission members present him with names and contact information for potential new members.

#### Other Pertinent Business

*None.*

#### Public Comment

*None.*

#### Adjournment

**Motion: Secretary Jimenez; second: Vice-President Grund; no discussion; approval: all. 6:23p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Krysten Hinkle, Administrative Secretary  
Sheila Jimenez, Executive Secretary