

***Pulaski County  
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 7 August 2018  
Pulaski County Human Services West Side Center  
Medaryville, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Members present: President Gregg Malott, Vice-President Beth Grund, Secretary Sheila Jimenez (Winamac), Membership Officer Doug Roth, board member Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); County Commissioner Kenny Becker, County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville), Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville); Tony Holliday, Kyle Sefchek, Samantha Williams. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle, summer intern Braden Tankersley.

Members absent: Doug Hoffman.

Call to Order

President Malott called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m.

Consent Agenda

Regarding the financial report, Director Origer briefly noted that the County Council had appropriated \$398,000 in Local Income Tax – Economic Development funds for the courthouse-elevator–replacement project; he presented a document that Mr. Tankersley and he had prepared to help the Council better to understand the permissible uses of each County fund prior to making future decisions of such magnitude.

With no other requests for extraction, the consent agenda was adopted.

Old Business

*Summer office intern(s):* Two internes had been hired, but one had quit on the third day and not been replaced. Braden Tankersley had completed a number of projects, including the aforementioned funds-description report and Manufacturing Day-related documents and plans.

*Strategic visioning/Pulaski County tax-revenue concerns:* Work on the plan update had been tabled until the Northwest Indiana Forum's regional plan had been released and could be digested, and the collaborative efforts being undertaken in Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, and Stare Counties had been more clearly defined. Completing the update would then be carried out with a focus on trying to figure out our strengths better within this bigger picture.

*South-Counties field trip:* Director Origer reported on his visit to Bowling Green, Kentucky, with colleagues from Jasper, Starke, and Newton Counties as part of their sub-regional partnership efforts within the Northwest Indiana Forum. The trip had provided some valuable insights and possible consulting connections in the workforce-training field, both for students and adults. The four Counties had met twice since the trip and continued to look for new partnership opportunities.

*Membership development:* A recommended employee at Alliance Bank had been contacted about filling Annie Scholz's former seat. but additional follow-up appeared to be necessary; the term would be ending in February. The director reported on forthcoming renewals and culminations.

*PC-CARE:* It still remained to be seen whether CSX would sell or retain this section of rail. The gentleman interested in buying the line would be appearing before the Francesville Town Council in mid-August.

*RAM-Tech program:* The teacher who took over the program in January would be remaining with West Central and had completed additional training over the summer; Director Origer would visit the classroom a few weeks into the semester and then report back. Local employers had thus far been pleased with the results of the program and continued to provide developmental support.

*Leadership Pulaski County:* Mrs. Hinkle had worked with Kris Parker from Purdue Extension Community Development and now was coordinating with Mrs. Williams to clarify a few concerns with the program calendar.

*Adopt-A-River program:* Staff had had little success in getting people to volunteer to adopt spots, so trash receptacles had not been installed this year, but Director Origer had completed installation of river-etiquette signs along the river. More effort would be put toward attracting volunteers to adopt sites prior to the 2019 tourism season.

*Wind-energy development:* Instead of adopting stricter regulations, as had been anticipated, the Plan Commission voted to recommend that the County Commissioners ban wind turbines.

Logistical issues with the actions of the Plan Commission and its certified recommendation to the Commissioners have left the issue tabled while the director and Planning staff assist the Commissioners in formulating appropriate language to send back to the Plan Commission to amend their decision.

Mr. Loehmer asked if Jasper County has made any decisions regarding wind, and Director Origer reported that they had purported been awaiting action in Pulaski County. President Malott asked if any of the owners of targeted sites had been approached about wind turbines on their property; the director said that while outreach had taken place in Jasper County, he did not believe that this had occurred in Pulaski County. Discussion ensued.

#### New Business

*None.*

#### Other Pertinent Business

*Website Development:* A firm that focuses on economic development had reached out to the director. Although he had no interest in looking into a sizable investment to replace the current website, he expressed willingness to look into services that could be provided, including search-engine optimization and communications assistance, pending Commission consent. No objections were raised, and the director would provide further information once he had received it.

*Francesville by-pass:* Mrs. Mellon raised the subject of a proposed new road around the east side of Francesville to alleviate downtown truck traffic. Director Origer agreed to follow up with the Pulaski County Highway Department to discuss this further.

#### Public Comment

*None.*

#### Adjournment

**Motion: Mr. Paulsen; second: Mr. Loehmer; no discussion; approval: all. 6:55p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Braden Tankersley, summer intern/Administrative Secretary *pro tempore*

Sheila Jimenez, Executive Secretary