

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 6 November 2018

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 2 October 2018

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Winamac, Indiana

Members present: President Gregg Malott, Vice-President Beth Grund, Membership Officer Doug Roth; County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Darlene Mellon (Francesville), Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville); Kyle Sefchek; Samantha Williams. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer, Project Coordinator Krysten Hinkle.

Members absent: Secretary Sheila Jimenez (Winamac) [personal], board member Lawrence Loehmer (Monterey); County Commissioner Kenny Becker; Doug Hoffman, Tony Holliday [personal].

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

Because the financial report had not been delivered in advance, the director received permission for extraction, and brief discussion ensued.

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

Old Business

Strategic visioning/Pulaski County tax-revenue concerns: Director Origer reported that the KIRPC regional strategy update had been underway, along with the Northwest Indiana Forum's recently unveiled regional economic-development plan. The director suggested sifting through those plans properly to align the CDC's plan with regional activity. The County Commissioners had not yet decided between Umbaugh and Associates and Peters Municipal Consultants as the County's financial consultant; once the decision had been made, funds formerly in the CDC's land-acquisition line item would likely cover the fees for these services.

Membership development: The director had not heard anything from the person approached about Annie Scholz's vacancy. Director Origer reiterated that Mr. Roth and Commissioner Becker's terms would have to be renewed, and that the Monterey Town Council is currently working on finding a replacement for Mr. Loehmer, whose second term expires in February. Mr. Paulsen agreed to continue on the CDC as the Chamber of Commerce representative. Doug Hoffman, who had now missed five consecutive meetings, had voiced his desire to resign, but had not yet done so.

PC-CARE: Director Origer reported that Chuck Mudd of Monon Northern had spoken to the Francesville Town Council and received a generally favorable response, but still awaited word from CSX regarding the future of the line in Pulaski County.

RAM-Tech program: Director Origer reported an enrollment of 21 students in three classes and that the third-level class had been undergoing curriculum development. Manufacturing Day plans had been begun for an observance in November.

Leadership Pulaski County: Mrs. Williams would be attending a conference soon and would report back with information that she had gathered.

Tourism efforts — 2019 marketing plan: Mrs. Hinkle had been putting together a comprehensive package for 2019, which would include an updated marketing brochure.

Tourism efforts — partnership grant opportunity: Working in partnership, Pulaski, Jasper, Newton, and Starke Counties have developed a signage proposal focusing on waterways, parks, and preserves for a State tourism-grant opportunity. The group is in the preliminary stages of developing the project.

Development prospect/RLF request: Director Origer updated the Commission on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) request, which had been tentatively approved at the September meeting, pending Regional Development Company (RDC) ratings. He reported that there had been a delay in getting information to the RDC, and while they had recommended approval, the risk rating worksheet had not yet been completed.

Office/building cleaning: The sole proposal was distributed to the Commission, who approved it.

New Business

Project coordinator's wages/future of CDC staffing: Director Origer reviewed the origins and history of the County's "salary matrix" and explained that he had been made aware by the County Attorney that the County Council intended to reduce the project coordinator's pay by nearly \$13,000, due to other County employees' complaints regarding the pay received by Mrs. Hinkle despite her short tenure with the CDC. and that the position would stay at the reduced pay rate going forward. Additionally, he reported that the option of "grandfathering" Mrs. Hinkle in at a reduction of roughly \$5,500 per year would be discussed, although the position's pay, if Mrs. Hinkle were to leave, would revert to the significantly lower rate. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding Mrs. Hinkle's job responsibilities versus other courthouse staff, the failings of the salary matrix, and industry pay for similar positions.

Other Pertinent Business

Pulaski County Farmers' Market: Mr. Sefchek reported that the final Farmers' Market had seen an all-time-high attendance. The number of WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Vouchers collected had also increased significantly.

Community events: Mr. Paulsen reminded the Commission of several community events happening soon, including Tippy's Brewfest & Wander Our Winamac's 5k, the Medaryville Crane Cruise, and the Uptown Project, Inc's Harvest Hoopla.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion Mr. Paulsen; second: Mr. Roth; no discussion; approval: all. 7:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Krysten Hinkle, Project Coordinator/Administrative Secretary
Samantha Williams, Executive Secretary *pro tempore*