

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

3 March 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes/Memorandum

Tuesday, 4 February 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Executive Session Memorandum

Members present: President Gregg Malott, Vice-President Beth Grund, Secretary Sheila Jimenez (Winamac), Membership Officer Doug Roth, board member Brandon DeLorenzo; County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Doug Denton (Monterey); Christy Coon, Kelsie Zellers. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer. Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville) arrived at 6:02*p.m.*, and Darlene Mellon (Francesville) arrived at 6:26*p.m.*

Members absent: County Commissioner Kenny Becker; Tony Holliday, Samantha Williams [business].

Guests present: Eric Galbreath, Bill Kinder (videoconference), Rebecca Kinder.

Call to Order

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

Adjournment

Motion: Councilor Sullivan; second: Mr. Denton; no discussion; approval: all.
6:56*p.m.*

Regular Meeting Minutes

Members present: As noted above.

Members absent: As noted above.

Guests present: As noted above.

Call to Order

President Malott called the meeting to order at 6:58*p.m.*

Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

Revolving Loan Fund request: B&B Cottage Market: After significant continued discussion, the Commission approved the loan request for an amount commensurate to the value of security approved by County Attorney Kevin Tankerseley, not to exceed the requested \$50,000.

Motion: Mr. Denton; second: Mr. Paulsen; no discussion; approval: all save Mrs. Mellon, who opposed.

Other revolving-loan-fund matters: The director updates the Commission on the status of IBC Thermoplastics, noting that recent steps has the company moving closer to production readiness after significant delays. President Malott expressed concern over the ongoing absence of production and repayment and instructed Director Origer to obtain from proprietor Damen Voranoff both a ballpark estimate for the first date of production and payment for last four months' worth, or half, of the amount owed by March.

Membership development: Brian Ledley, who had been recommended to fill President Malott's vacancy so as to maintain the Commission's close relationship with Pulaski Memorial Hospital was approved for membership beginning 1 March 2020.

Motion: President Malott; second: Secretary Jimenez; no discussion; approval: all.

In light of the anticipated length of the remainder of the meeting and the late call to order following the executive session, the members declined to make a decision regarding the applicants to fill Mrs. Williams's forthcoming vacancy. The matter was tabled until the March meeting.

Motion: Vice-President Grund; second: Councilor Sullivan; no discussion; approval: all.

RAM-Tech program: The director reported having spoken with the program instructor and conveyed that the classes had been moving along smoothly; a spring field trip to Winamac factories would be planned in the near future.

Leadership Pulaski County: Director Origer reported that Mrs. Williams would be meeting with Community Foundation of Pulaski County (CFPC) Executive Director Wendy Rose to discuss financial support for the program and other matters. The Foundation, the Commission, and Purdue Extension – Pulaski County all remained committed to moving forward.

Workforce-gap project: The director had been unable to connect with the regional partner whose input he had next needed, but would be doing so on the following day.

Strategic visioning/Pulaski Co. budget concerns/path forward: The director guided members through pages from the CFPC's recently released report, "Conversations with our Community", which had been developed in the wake of 17 conversations with 146 community members conducted by the CFPC's consultant. The document conveys residents' hopes, fears, and concerns about the community and will be used by the CFPC and others to guide policy and programming. The director encouraged members to read it through, noting that much of it aligns with needs to be addressed as part of a strategic-visioning process.

2020 Economic Development Summit: Director Origer reported on having a lead for the event's speaker and confirmed with Mrs. Wilcoxon regarding securing the church annex.

New Business

2020 tourism-marketing efforts: Director Origer reviewed the various marketing proposals that vendors had provided to him, discussing the cost of each and the budgetary limitations faced by the Commission. After significant discussion, the consensus was to allow the director to develop a final plan within financial parameters to present to the Board of Commissioners based on his judgment. Mrs. Mellon suggested that partnering with neighbors, such as White County, to leverage marketing dollars and destination opportunities would be worth investigating, and that guestbooks could be placed in participating local businesses, such as restaurants and visitor attractions, to develop a database that could help to measure out-of-county visitors and from where they visit.

FEDCO BizGro program: The director presented on this entrepreneurial-training and – support program coordinated by the economic-development office in Fulton County, suggesting that it may be advisable to require participation of RLF borrowers, to expand Small Business Development Center training opportunities, or both. Members expressed interest, but sought more information before taking any steps. Conversation would continue at the March meeting.

Other Pertinent Business

Outgoing members: Councilor Sullivan expressed his gratitude to President Malott and Mrs. Mellon for their service on the commission. Director Origer and the rest of the members seconded the appreciation.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Secretary Jimenez; second: Mrs. Wilcoxon; no discussion; approval: all
8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan P. Origer, Executive Director/Recording Secretary
Sheila Jimenez, Secretary