

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

5 May 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 3 March 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Members present: Aaron Paulsen (Chamber), Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville), Doug Denton (Monterey); Tony Holliday, Brian Ledley, Doug Roth, Kelsie Zellers.
Executive Director Nathan P. Origer.

Members absent: County Commissioner Kenny Becker, County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Sheila Jimenez (Winamac) [personal]; Christy Coon [civic], Brandon DeLorenzo [business], Beth Grund [personal].

Guests present: Amy Beechy, Project Matters.

Call to Order

Director Origer called the meeting to order at 6:02*p.m.* and introduced Mr. Ledley.

Consent Agenda

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

Reorganization of the Commission

The following nominations and volunteers had been offered prior to the meeting:

Ms. Grund, President, by Mr. Paulsen. Ms. Grund had accepted.

Mr. Roth, President, by Gregg Malott. Mr. Roth had accepted.

Ms. Jimenez, President, volunteered.

Ms. Jimenez, Secretary, volunteered.

Mr. DeLorenzo, fifth board member, volunteered.

Mr. Ledley, office as needed, by Ms. Jimenez.

Mr. Holliday, office as needed, by Ms. Jimenez.

No nominated were offered from the floor.

Director Origer called for a show of hands for the presidential nominees, starting with Mr. Roth. All members present responded in the affirmative besides Mr. Paulsen. Mr. Paulsen then responded in the affirmative when the director presented Ms. Grund. By majority vote, Mr. Roth was placed on the final slate for the presidency. The director suggested electing Ms. Grund and Ms. Jimenez to continue in their 2019-2020 roles as vice-president and secretary, respectively. This was approved by acclamation. Mrs. Zellers volunteered to replace Mr. Roth as membership officer, and this was approved by acclamation. No one objected to Mr. DeLorenzo's continuing on the board.

The slate was approved as ultimately agreed upon.

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

Membership Action

At-large vacancy: The director and President Roth, the 2019-2020 membership officer, presented three candidates for consideration: Jamie Murray, Courtney Poor, and Blake Kasten. After the director and Mr. Roth presented initial thoughts on the three applicants, significant discussion ensued. Pending the absence of any objections from the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Kasten was selected to serve a three-year term.

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

Francesville seat: Director Origer reported that he had attended the mid-February Francesville Town Council meeting and discussed the vacancy; he had received a list of potential members and had been working to secure a commitment. The seat would be filled by the April meeting.

Old Business

FEDCO BizGro program: Director Origer welcomed Ms. Beechy, who introduced herself, Project Matters, and her work with the Fulton Economic Development Corporation (FEDCO) and the Community Foundation of Pulaski County (C.F.P.C.). She proceeded to review the outcomes of the BizGro entrepreneur-training program that she has overseen for FEDCO, which also includes access not only to low-interest loans, but to training funds, and discussed the possibility of the C.D.C.'s partnering with Project Matters to benefit Pulaski County entrepreneurs. After significant discussion, the Commission instructed the director to prepare an amendment to the County's Revolving Loan Fund program guidelines that would require most applicants to enroll in one of the two semi-annual BizGro five-class sessions offered in Rochester in order to qualify for funding.

RLF matters: The director reported that the County's attorney had approved the B&B Country Market loan for \$40,000, and he would be meeting with the attorney and the Kinders on Friday to hash out final details; that a current borrower had enquired about funds availability for a second project; and that he had been continuing to monitor progress with I.B.C. Thermoplastics, Inc. Still-delinquent payment still had not been made, but Mr. Voranoff had been making progress toward increasing cash flow, lining up buyers, and getting lab approval of his products. Additionally, he would be working with a local agent to sell excess property, with the proceeds of the sale to be directed toward his loan payment. The director and members remained very cautiously optimistic about the project, and Director Origer would be meeting with Mr. Voranoff again on Friday.

RAM-Tech: The director had been coordinating between teacher Dave Reif and Winamac manufactures to schedule a field trip to their facilities. Going forward, this time would be removed from the agenda unless new developments would require additional discussion.

Leadership Pulaski County: The director had met with Wendy Rose of the C.F.P.C. and Samantha Williams of Purdue Extension - Pulaski County; the C.F.P.C. would be committing annual grant funding to Extension to fund a part-time program manager for this program. Marketing would begin in mid-summer, with an expected start date for the program in September.

Workforce-gap project: The director had little progress to report on this front, but a rehash of the project occurred for Mr. Ledley's benefit and to generate additional insights from the members.

Strategic visioning/Pulaski Co. budget concerns/path forward: Suggesting that the primary problem affecting the County's budget — one both aggravating and aggravated by the issues emanating from having the state's highest income-tax rate — is its declining population, the director presented a one-pager from Brand Acceleration regarding the company's resident-attraction program. No action was taken at this time, but conversations would occur with local employers. Further discussion ensued regarding the C.F.P.C.'s plans for funding and coordinating various, diverse leadership-development opportunities in the community with Lilly Endowment grant funds.

2020 Economic Development Summit: The director reiterated that Mrs. Wilcoxon had secured the event space, but the intended caterer had not yet responded to his inquiry, and he had struggled engage a speaker.

2020 tourism-marketing efforts: The Board of Commissioners had approved the final proposal prepared by the director after the February C.D.C. meeting, which the director briefly discussed; television commercials would be run during such events as the Academy of Country Music Awards and the Masters Tournament.

Other Pertinent Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: President Roth; second: Mr. Holliday; no discussion; approval: all 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan P. Origer, Executive Director/Recording Secretary
Tony Holliday, Secretary *pro tempore*