

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 2 June 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 5 May 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Members present: President Doug Roth, *Membership Officer Kelsie Zellers, board member Brandon DeLorenzo*; County Commissioner Ken Becker, *County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville); Christy Coon*. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer. *Brian Ledley arrived at 6:02, Blake Kasten arrived at 6:05, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber) arrived at 6:10, and Secretary Sheila Jimenez (Winamac) arrived at 6:13.*

Members absent: Vice-President Beth Grund; Doug Denton (Monterey) [personal]; Tony Holliday.

Guests present *Amy Beechy (Project Matters), David DeLorenzo, and unidentified and uncounted other livestream viewers.*

(Roman text indicates in-person attendance; *italics indicate telephone (members)/online (guests) attendance.*)

Call to Order

President Roth called the meeting to order at 6:00*p.m.* The director noted that a quorum had not yet been met. Mr. Ledley's call-in brought the attendance level to quorum.

Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

Revolving Loan Fund matters: IBC Thermoplastics/Trust Properties had come to closing on the sale of excess property; the loan program would be the beneficiary of the sales proceeds, and Director Origer would be speaking with him later in the week. Mr. Voranoff has received verbal confirmation of his products' having passed required laboratory tests, but awaited written documentation. During the period of shelter-in-place, he and a friend had been making sales calls.

Rebecca and Bill Kinder had reconsidered their plans for the B&B Country Market and returned the \$40,000 that they had borrowed from the program.

Revolving Loan Fund matters — FEDCO BizGro program: Director Origer presented amended language regarding training expectations of new- and existing-business applicants; under the proposed changes, per the Commission's consensus at the March meeting, most borrowers would be required to participate in the BizGro program prior to loan approval. The language was approved.

Motion: Commissioner Becker; second: Mrs. Wilcoxon; no discussion; approval: all.

Leadership Pulaski County: The director had been in continued communication with the Community Foundation and Extension; planning would move forward pending Purdue's approval of the part-time program manager.

Strategic visioning/Pulaski Co. budget concerns/path forward: The director presented and briefly reviewed an article he had run in local newspapers recently analyzing the County's spending and the projected impact that the CoViD-19 shutdown would have on income-tax revenues. Director Origer suggested that the County's payroll obligations seem to be disproportionately large relative to neighboring counties' budgets, and that the heavy reliance on income taxes to subsidized property-tax bills would make the revenue impact worse than it might otherwise be. Mr. Ledley inquired as to the County's use of a financial advisory, and the director explained that BakerTilly had been conducting a review as part of the firm's guidance regarding the issuance of a bond for the proposed courthouse/justice-center project.

2020 tourism-marketing efforts: Commercials has been airing in Chicagoland on one network, with the other expected vendor having failed to continue communications with the director. April

2020 marked the best April for tourism-website traffic and second-based overall month for such traffic since monitoring had begun in April 2020; early data suggested that May would prove to be a strong month for traffic, too. The director expressed hope that, as the state re-opened, website visitors would become tourists.

2020 tourism-marketing efforts — Adopt-a-River: With the Commission's blessing, and having received the okay from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the director intended to return trash receptacles to DNR public-access points along the Tippecanoe River in the following week and to solicit volunteers to adopt them. No objections were raised.

Membership development: Francesville seat: Previous suggestions had fallen through, but the director hoped to have someone to present at the June meeting.

New Business

2021 budget: The director reviewed the proposal, which included reinstating the project-coordinator position or a part-time assistant, a 10-percent pay-increase request, a small overtime appropriation, and a 16.67-percent increase in marketing funds. No questions were raised, and the budget was approved for submission to the County Council.

Motion: Mrs. Coon; second: Mr. Ledley; no discussion; approval: all.

Pulaski County Incident Management Team / CoViD-19 response: The director reported on his having been serving as the liaison officer for the County's response team, keeping elected official and local businesses updated. Additionally, he had submitted an application for a \$250,000 grant to establish a relief-grant fund for small businesses in Pulaski County. Members of the Commission would be asked to serve on the grant committee would the County's proposal be funded.

2020 meeting schedule review: In light of the via-email amendments to the schedule and the executive board's approval in May, the director asked for in-meeting confirmation of the changes to the schedule. No objections were raised.

2020 meeting schedule review — 2020 Economic Development Summit: If the lined-up speaker, Ball State economist Dr. Michael Hicks, would not be permitted by Ball State to travel, or setbacks to overcoming the CoViD-19 outbreak had fallen short, and meeting-size restrictions had been reinstated, the Summit would be canceled, and Dr. Hicks would be asked to speak in 2021.

Annual achievements report: The 2019-2020 report was presented and approved.

Motion: Mr. Paulsen; second: Mrs. Wilcoxon; no discussion; approval: all.

Other Pertinent Business

2020 Power from the Past show: Secretary Jimenez asked if the event had been canceled or would be taking place; Commissioner Becker reported that a decision had been expected that day, but not yet been announced.

Public Comment

Amy Beechy: She looks forward to working with the Commission to provide BizGro training to Revolving Loan Fund borrowers.

David DeLorenzo: He asked the director to look into the status of the Pulaski County Health Department's inspection of the the Medaryville Pizza King.

Adjournment

Motion: Mrs. Wilcoxon; second: Secretary Jimenez; no discussion; approval: all

6:28p.m.

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