

***Pulaski County  
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 17 November 2020

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex  
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Memorandum/ Minutes

Tuesday, 6 October 2020

Monterey Town Hall  
Monterey, Indiana

Commission Executive Session (Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(4))

Members present: President Doug Roth, Secretary/Membership Officer Kelsie Zellers, board member Brandon DeLorenzo, board member Christy Coon; County Councilor Jay Sullivan, Lynn Johns (Francesville), Doug Denton (Monterey), Blake Kasten, Breann Wilson. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer. Brian Ledley arrived at 6:04 *p.m.*; Suzanna Wilcoxon (Medaryville) arrived at 6:08 *p.m.*

Members absent: Vice-President Sheila Jimenez (Winamac) [excused]; County Commissioner Ken Becker, Aaron Paulsen (Chamber); Tony Holliday [business].

Guests present: None

Call to Order

President Roth called the meeting to order at 6:00 *p.m.* Director Origer introduced Mrs. Wilson and asked all members to introduced themselves to her.

Review of COVID-19 Small-Business-Relief Grant Applications

The Commission reviewed the 17 applications that had been submitted to the director, discussed and applied criteria for reviewing them, and reached a consensus that would be reviewed and adopted during the public meeting.

No other business was discussed during this meeting.

Adjournment

**Motion: Mr. Ledley; second: Mrs. Coon; no discussion; approval: all 6:44 *p.m.***

Regular Meeting

Members and guests present/absent: same as above.

Call to Order

President Roth called the meeting to order at 6:45 *p.m.*

Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

*Revolving Loan Fund matters:* The director reported that he had continued to work with IBC Thermoplastics, and that a request for a loan to purchase buildings in downtown Winamac by an online-business owner looking to established a brick-and-mortar storefront and to be landlord to existing tenants would be forthcoming.

*Leadership Pulaski County:* Director Origer recommended that this item be removed from future agendas, given that Extension had hired a part-time coordinator, and the program had been moving forward smoothly. Members consented to this.

*Strategic visioning/Pulaski Co. budget concerns/path forward:* The director suggested that, with the County Council having reduced the income-tax and thawed the frozen property-tax levy, attention should now be directed back to strategic planning, specifically regarding what steps could

be taken to encourage capital investment to keep property-tax rates lower even as the maximum levy grows annually and how to make the community more welcoming to residents.

*2021 budget:* Director Origer reported that he did not expect the County Council to approve his request for staffing.

*Mammoth Solar:* The director reported that progress on the project had been halted by legal challenges filed by opponents of the project, briefly explained the nature of the challenges, and mused on the potential outcomes and impacts thereof. Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the proposed project in Pulaski and Starke Counties.

#### New Business

*COVID-19 response: small-business-relief grant applications:* Because less money had been requested than had been available, the Commission agreed to fund all 17 submitted applications at \$10,000 each leaving just shy of \$74,000 for a second round of funding.

**Motion: Mr. DeLorenzo; second: Mr. Johns; no discussion; approval: all.**

A short second round was agreed to, with a deadline of 4:00 *p.m.* on Monday, 19 October set. If only seven applications would be received, then each would be funded at \$10,000; otherwise, an executive session and brief public meeting would be scheduled for later in that week.

**Motion: Mr. Ledley; second: Secretary Zellers; no discussion; approval: all**

*November/December scheduling:* Because the November meeting had been scheduled for General Election Day, the director asked to move it; the Commission agreed to reschedule it for Tuesday, 17 November.

**Motion: Mr. Denton; second: Councilor Sullivan; no discussion; approval: all.**

#### Other Pertinent Business

*2020 tourism-marketing efforts:* The director noted that September tourism-website traffic dropped precipitously from the previous three months' totals, reporting that this made sense given that Chicagoland television and digital marketing ended with August.

#### Public Comment

*None.*

#### Adjournment

**Motion: Councilor Sullivan; second: Mr. DeLorenzo; no discussion; approval: all**  
6:12 *p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan P. Origer, Executive Director/Recording Secretary  
Kelsie Zellers, Secretary