

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 1 June 2021

Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 6 April 2021

Meadow Springs
Francesville, Indiana

Members present: *President Sheila Jimenez (Winamac)*, board member Brandon DeLorenzo; County Commissioner Maurice Loehmer, County Councilor Kathleen Thompson, *Aaron Paulsen (Chamber)*, Lynn Johns (Francesville), Arthur Conley (Medaryville); Bill Champion, *Breann Wilson*. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer. *Secretary Doug Denton (Monterey) and Membership Officer Kelsie Zellers arrived 6:03.*

Members absent: Vice-President Christy Coon [excused]; Blake Kasten [excused], Brian Ledley.

Guests present: None.

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

Call to Order

Director Origer called the meeting to order at 6:00 *p.m.*

Consent Agenda

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

Old Business

Strategic visioning: Director Origer reported that, prior to the meeting, the Strategic Visioning Committee had held its first meeting, at which it established priorities and scheduling, discussed goals and objectives, and reviewed relevant documentation. The next meeting would be scheduled for early May.

Revolving Loan Fund matters — general updates: All borrowers had been in good standing save I.B.C. Thermoplastics; the director would be following up with Mr. Voranoff in the near future.

Revolving Loan Fund matters — program review: The director reported that, immediately prior to the meeting, the Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee had met and reviewed the first draft of proposed changes. The committee would reconvene once the County's attorney had had the opportunity to provide input on the document.

Membership terms: The director reported that he had still been working to find a replacement for Doug Roth from the non-exempt manufacturing sector.

OCRA CDBG COVID-19 relief grants, round 3: The director reported that, based on guidance from the grant administrator at KIRPC, a few tweaks regarding applying to both the County's and Town of Winamac's programs had been necessary before he could open the program up to applications. He presented the marketing plan and scoring matrix that he had developed at KIRPC's request per State guidelines. An announcement regarding the County's application was expected to be made about 15 April. If the program were funded, then applications from businesses would be reviewed at the June meeting if possible.

Mammoth Solar: The Pulaski County Board of Zoning Appeals had approved the second special exception requested by the developer, again with the conditions and commitments required as part of the first approval.

New Business

Solar-energy development: Director Origer opened discussion regarding the members' attitudes toward and questions about solar-energy development in the community. The director outlined concerns that opponents and others had raised, spoke to the Pulaski County Advisory Plan Commission's efforts to amend regulations to address concerns as effectively as possible, and explained how the substantial capital investment in these projects could create new revenues for the

County, reduce (or at least slow the increase of) property-tax bills, or both. Discussion ensued, and Councilor Thompson expressed her support for solar energy, suggested that significant development is inevitable in the United States, and that Pulaski County should take advantage of this. The director sought to check the pulse of the Commission regarding solar development, and no members raised opposition to future projects.

Other Pertinent Business

Tax-abatement workshop: Councilor Thompson reported that she would be attending a Department of Local Government Finance training session in Winamac hosted by the Assessor's Office later in the month; the director stated that he would try to attend, too.

Renewable energy: Commissioners Loehmer spoke briefly of the immense benefit that investment in renewable energy in the community can have.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Champion; second: Commissioner Loehmer; no discussion; approval: all 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan P. Origer, Executive Director/Recording Secretary
Doug Denton, Secretary