

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission
Executive Board***

Tuesday, 2 November 2021
Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 4 May 2021
Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Members present: President Sheila Jimenez (Winamac), Secretary Doug Denton, Membership Officer Kelsie Zellers, board member Brandon DeLorenzo. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer.

Members absent: Vice-President Christy Coon [personal].

Guests present: None.

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

Call to Order

President Jimenez called the meeting to order at 6:03 *p.m.*

New Business

2022 budget: The director presented his proposed budget, noting that it reflected an increase of more than 100 percent over the 2021 budget. He elaborated that it allowed for a 10-percent pay increase and for both a part-time and a full-time staff person, but that he would only be seeking one or the other.

Small increases to some operations line-items had been proposed to allow for potential strategic-plan implementation efforts, while a sizable increase had been made to the Professional Services line-item for potential, reimbursable costs associated with economic-impact studies for solar-energy projects, as well as for scheduling fees for 2022 tourism marketing or for economic-development marketing consultants — “just-in-case money”. An increase to the Marketing budget of \$20,000 had been proposed to allow for economic-development marketing along with a \$10,000 addition as a cushion for either economic-development or tourism marketing. The director had proposed a \$5,000 increase to the Economic Development line-item for potential local-match requirements for regional grant projects and support for community-leadership efforts undertaken by the Community Foundation of Pulaski County.

The entire proposed increase from 2021 to 2022 amounted to about \$203,000. In light of this, the director had provided a worst-case scenario of what the balance of the Local Income Tax – Economic Development Fund would be at the end of 2022 — \$371,291, or still 35% of the total budget, a healthy reserve.

Secretary Denton enquired as to the director’s expectations for success with the County Council, suggesting that he was not convinced that the staff position being reinstated; President Jimenez noted that the Council had seen significant turnover, and Director Origer noted that he felt he had stronger support on the Council than he had when the position had been removed from the budget and that he felt that he could at least get part-time help. The director emphasized the need, once the strategic-plan update had been adopted, for comprehensive staffing-related conversations with the Board of Commissioners, Council, and, perhaps, Advisory Plan Commission regarding the extent of the workload beyond the executive-director job description taken on by Director Origer. Discussion ensued regarding the need to address staffing and compensation issues across the entirety of County government.

By consensus, the budget was approved for recommendation to the full Commission as presented.

Old Business

Strategic visioning update: The director provided a brief update of the Strategic Visioning Committee’s progress as the meeting immediately preceding this one.

Other Business Determined to be Necessary

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

By consensus. 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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