

PERRY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
Minutes February 8, 2018 – PBTC

Call to Order: 8:13 AM

In attendance: Paul Rudy, Rich Pluta, Patti McLaughlin, Frank Campbell, Jim Fuller, John Gerner, Christie Young, Russ Hoover, Dawn Lowe, Marti Roberts

Excused absence: Brenda Watson, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Morgan Tressler, June Reisinger

Absent: Derek Whitesel, Steve Peters

Public Comment:

Jason Finnerty: 20 new lots – 15 subdivision plans in 2018, located in Spring, Carrol Saville, Juniata Townships. Does not include plan in Marysville which was reviewed in 2006, the revised plan hasn't been submitted yet. Met with Comprehensive Plan Economic Develop workgroup. More meetings to follow.

Secretary's Report: John Gerner

John presented minutes. Patti moved to accept Report, Russ 2nd. Marti noted that Dawn shared a economic/jobs report. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Russ Hoover

Russ reported that \$50,000 check from county was deposited. Dawn motioned to accept report. Paul 2nd. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Martha Roberts

Ad hoc group visited with 10 candidates to fill 5 open board seats. Frank motioned to submit the following candidates to the commissioners for appointment: Duane Hertzler, Mike Lawlor, Shawna Weller, Greg Gordon and Emory Yoder. Patti 2nd. Reviewed procedure to recommend candidates. Questions were developed to engage candidates in discussions. Interviewers anonymously scored candidates. Scores were tallied, and the five recommended had the highest scores. John suggested that we identify when their terms end. Rich added that the town where candidates are from should also be included when brought before the commissioners. Frank amended the motion to include adding the terms and towns, Paul 2nd. Motion carried. Paul inquired if any seats are open after these individuals are appointed and there are none. Letter will be sent to all 10 candidates.

Michelle, Russ June & Marti met with representatives from the USDA to discuss their loan and grant programs relevant to the work of EDA and/or to businesses/farms/townships. Discussed plan to conduct an Ag feasibility study and the need for funding. Rural Business Development Grant would be excellent fit. Application deadline is April 21. USDA urged the EDA to become a lending entity for microloans geared to businesses in rural communities. These are small loans that are not generally not funded by banks because they are high(er) risk. USDA funds are available to match potential EDA exposure. Discussion ensued about how program would be administered. Patti suggested finding other counties that are doing these so we can see what is involved. Further due diligence will be pursued for additional information to be able to make a well informed decision.

Discussion regarding update to bylaws. John has been working on suggested changes and developing Rules/Regulations for Board procedures not included in the bylaws.

Marti reminded group about the Cabinet in Your Community event, February 20 at 3:15 at Greenwood auditorium.

Chamber is requesting EDA share office operating expenses. Rent is payed through 2019. These expenses are use of printer/paper, snow removal and electric. Based on last year costs, EDA's share of annual office expenses will be approximately \$1400 (@ \$350.00 per quarter). Christie motioned to cost share expenses with Chamber, billable quarterly. Jim 2nd. John asked for copies of invoices. Christie amended motion to reflect EDA will cost share 50% of total office operating expenses. Rich abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Bob O'Toole, treasurer of the Farm Bureau, contacted Marti regarding the EDA's potential interest/involvement in the 2018 Farm Fest. He asked if EDA would handle sponsors and vendors. Jim commented that a planning meeting was already held with 12 -14 people in attendance. Donny volunteered his farm for the event location, but wants to hold it in August. Jim mentioned that EDA and Chamber had a greater reach than the Farm Bureau. The next meeting is at the Extension office, February 19 at 7 p.m.

Old Business:

Michelle presented information about the business plan software and recommended Live Plan. John moved to buy the software. Frank 2nd. Motion carried.

Reminder - Breakfast Meet & Greet with the Chamber on 2/14 from 8-9:30 AM.

New Business:

Proposal for switching to Pennian Bank for a .35% interest. Rich moved to consider switching. John 2nd.

Discussion to ask Orrstown (current bank) if they can match interest and services of Pennian. Rich revised motion to talk to Orrstown Bank first, Dawn 2nd. Motion carried.

Frank discussed the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). This is a 50% matching grant program with the state for infrastructure development for economic development projects. He is working with a potential future tenant of the Business Campus to apply for a grant which is due February 27th.

Rich discussed an Employability Certificate offered by the Capital Region Partnership for Career Development (CRPCD) in the past. High school students could apply, show proof of good grades, attendance and get two letters of recommendation. If approved, they have a certificate to show potential employers, which could help students and employers in the hiring process. CRPCD is redeveloping the program. The Chamber and the EDA have offered our help and would like to get all the County School Districts to participate.

Rich shared additional Chamber news. They have registered all four school districts as members for the first time. Feb 21st is first in a series of educational opportunities for businesses held at Pinnacle Health. Michelle is a panelist for a branding/marketing discussion.

John asked about status of audit. Michelle is working on obtaining multiple quotes.

Question regarding status of branding identity study. Waiting on a revised proposal from Tripp Muldrow of Muldrow & Associates.

Question regarding Ag feasibility study. Clarified that the quote for the study was @ \$40,000, we must seek additional funding (grants) to conduct the study.

Adjourn

Christie motioned to adjourn. Jim 2nd. Motion carried at 10:15 AM.