

Perry County Economic Development Authority Board
Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2018 at Perry Business and Tourism Center

Present: Marti Roberts, Frank Campbell, Paul Rudy, Patti McLaughlin, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Duane Hertzler, Morgan Tressler, Greg Gordon, James Fuller, Russ Hoover, Dawn Lowe, Shawna Weller, Rich Pluta, June Reisinger

Excused: Derek Whitesel, Mike Lawler, John Gerner, Christie Young, Emery Yoder

Guests: Jason Finnerty

Called to Order at 8:02 a.m.

Public Comment: Jason discussed monthly meeting about Comp Plan – held on the Thursday before the monthly board meeting. Held outreach in Juniata Township, to encourage townships to use planning commission to facilitate uniformity in ordinances.

Welcomed new board members and group introductions. Explanation of time sheet.

Secretary's report:

Patti presented. Russ moved, Frank seconded. Discussion about keeping Bank accounts at Orrstown, changing designation to Nonprofit for better rate. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

Russ presented. Normal payroll and office expenses. Patti moved, June seconded. Motion carried.

Chair report:

- There is an ongoing work group to work through Comprehensive Plan with Jason.
- A presentation at the Township Supervisor's convention in February.
- Discussion about conference call with Tripp Muldrow and subsequent planning for branding phase 2. Recommend the board accept the contract for the project. June moved, Kevin seconded. Motion carried. We have a date proposed for this session, May 21st-23rd. Patti moved, June seconded accepted this date. Motion carried.
- Apply for 2 grants. One is money for branding and promotion, the other for local ag production feasibility study. USDA/RDBG and Local Food Promotion Program. Deadlines are April 30 and May 7th. Plan to apply for \$50,000 for each. LFPP is 25% match. RBDG doesn't require a match, but it reflects well to have one. Marti will participate in a LFPP webinar March 31st. Michelle will send link if anyone else is interested in watching. LFPP looks for collaboration. Last year Pa received two and Philly got them both. It is very competitive.
- Will need letters of support for RBDG.
- Discussion about INTAG which installed a hydroponic learning center in Steelton where kids are exposed to 21st century Ag, including high tech, analytics, engineering, etc. Will plan a date for a tour.

Old business:

Create a 501c3. June is chairing ad hoc committee. We will send a date for to meet.

Farm Fest next planning meeting. Meeting is on March 26 at 7 p.m. at Extension office. No date for event yet.

Live Plan software update: Looking for volunteers to be trained on software.

New Business:

- Bicentennial crocks are available here.
- County will conduct audit this month of PCEDA books, then file annual report with DCED.
- PCEDA cannot be covered under county's liability insurance, according to Paul. Paul will follow up with company. Expires June 1
- Frank: KOZ- tax abatement program. CREDC manages for our region. Perry may actually get a larger portion. Business Campus One is priority, but also some sites in Howe Townships. Local, county and School taxes must be abated, by resolution. For Perry County we are requiring a payment in lieu of taxes so that township/local/school continues to receive base tax amount for 10 years. Frank is looking for permission to use PCEDA's name as a supporter of the program. Patti moved to formally support, Kevin seconded. Motion carried.
- Education committee: Mock interviews at Newport. April 24, 8-3. More details to follow.
- PA Dept Ag and Center for Dairy Excellence initiated study which recommended additional processing plants in PA. Frank and Bill Roberts met with Governor's action team to promote Perry as a potential site. Frank wants EDA support and backing to proceed with our support. Russ moved that we publicly support, Jim seconded. Motion carried.
- Frank began discussion regarding EDA's position on public support of applicants who want to establish a business but require a variance. Rich suggested: if someone wants our support they need to present their case to us, and understand it's now on public record. We'd have to decide on case by case.
- Kevin rescheduled meeting with Mary Kuna for board development.
- Jim reported majority of Farm Bureau board is in of development in Penn Township. Farm Bureau will be making statements about possible implications down the road. Developer is making alterations that are contrary to good development.
- Jason: August 25th is new Country Casual date.
- Patti: Walmart creating dairy processing plant and dropping local dairy farms. It will continue to create major fallout. Will send a link out about what is happening. Sherri Bunting recommended how to look at label for where milk is being made. "Wheresmymilkfrom.com Giant and Weis milks are local.

Adjourn:

Patti motioned, Rich seconded. Motion carried.