

Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2019
Perry County Economic Development Authority

Attendees: Shawna Weller, Patti McLaughlin, Brenda Watson, Russ Hoover, Duane Hertzler, June Reisinger, Mike Lawler, John Gerner, Derek Whitesel, Rich Pluta, Frank Campbell, Jim Fuller, Morgan Tressler, Marti Roberts, Michelle Jones,
Absent: Greg Gordon, Emory Yoder,
Excused: Dawn Lowe, Kevin Fitzpatrick
Visitors: Jason Finnerty,

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Roberts at 8:01 AM

Public Comment:

Jason Finnerty reported that the plan approvals by the County Planning Commission is only eight (8) fewer than last year's pace at this point. He went on to say that the Planning Commission has reviewed two intergovernmental grant requests. The first is for Loysville sewer improvements, and the second is for CNG facilities in the Perry Innovation Park. The Chair of the Penn Township Planning Commission has requested that Mr. Finnerty attend the next their next commission meeting this coming Monday to discuss the County Planning Commission's comments on the township's proposed zoning ordinance amendments. Rich Pluta asked if Mr. Finnerty was also invited to the continuation of the townships public hearing on the zoning ordinance amendments scheduled for November 20th. Mr. Finnerty advised that he had not been invited to that meeting. Finally, Mr. Finnerty advised that he had received an email from a woman in Liverpool wondering why there are no hospitals in the county. Mr. Finnerty said he planned to respond with reminder of how many more medical facilities we do have now.

Secretary's Report:

John Gerner presented minutes of the October 10, 2019 board meeting which had been distributed to all board members before this meeting. Russ Hoover made a motion to accept the seconded the motion. Frank Campbell noted that Blain – in the Downtown Revitalization Workgroup section of the minutes – is not spelled with an "e", while Brenda Watson noted that it historically did. The corrected minutes were approved by a voice vote without dissent.

Treasurer's Report:

Patti McLaughlin presented the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2019 prepared by Robert Morris & Co. Ms. McLaughlin advised that the report reflects normal monthly receipts and expenses. Michelle Jones noted that the USDA has recently released our previous \$22K reimbursement request, which they had been holding up pending receipt of our EEO compliance documents. They will place a hold on our next reimbursement until that paperwork is complete. The funds received will be used to pay the KTC invoice that had previously been approved for payment. Derek Whitesel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jim Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent. Rich Pluta noted that funds received based on our work with the Engage

program and PREP money has not been budgeted to date. These funds should be included in our budget for next year. Michelle Jones advised that we have the first invoice from Arnett Muldrow for \$17,938.22, which will require board approval. June Reisinger made a motion to approve payment of this invoice, Kevin Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

Chair Report:

- Marti Roberts advised that our request for funding from County in 2020 did not get approved during the recent county budget meetings. She said that some thought is being given to reaching out to the commissioners-elect to provide them with information on what EDA does and our role in County. The new commissioners can reopen budget within 45 days of their swearing in. We will ask them to consider reopening the budget and reconsider our funding request.
- LFPP – board members and the ag committee completed their review and assessment of the business options. The top three opportunities are grain hub, malt house and hemp processing. KTC will now create business plans for each of these options. We anticipate a presentation of the business plans could come as early as January. June Reisinger asked if the business plans called for formation of cooperatives to implement the ideas. Ms. Roberts said that it is too early in the process to determine that kind of detail.
- Downtown Revitalization Workgroup needs to re-evaluation the downtown coordinator position considering the county's denial of funding. Last month, the board approved having the steering committee create a job description, advertise the position, and recommend a candidate to the board for approval. We will be asking Arnett/Muldrow for their recommendations.
- As previously noted, representatives from Harrisburg University made a presentation to community leaders about a project idea for the Carson Long campus. Since that time, the Carson Long property has been placed under contract. Nevertheless, we understand there continues to be an interest on the part of Harrisburg University to look at potential sites for their sustainable ag curriculum and a field review of three sites is set for Friday afternoon, November 14th. The three sites are the Watson-Burd property behind Tractor Supply, Buffalo Crossing, and Perry Innovation Park. It was noted that the Attorney General's office is delaying its consideration of the offer to purchase the Carson Long property until March. John Gerner noted that Landisburg Borough owns 22 acres with sewer and water service, and they are looking to find someone to partner with for a facility.
- Jim Fuller has agreed to be our representative on the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. They met this Wednesday and will meet next week.

Staff Report:

Michelle Jones provided a written staff report and highlighted a few items as follows:

- The Covation Center in Williamsport is offering an advanced business course for existing businesses. Perry County was selected as the site of a pilot offering of the 10-week course for between 10-15 businesses. Funding for the sessions could be taken from the Engage funding we received recently. Rich Pluta made a motion to accept the Covation proposal, Patti McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

Old Business:

- Kevin Fitzpatrick report that he received 15 responses to his board training survey. Marti Roberts recommended that we start scheduling some of the training options. We had a proposal to help us renew our strategic plan for \$3000, but some question the need to do this since we already have one. Patti McLaughlin made a motion to delay strategic planning for a year considering all the work we have underway at this time, Morgan Tressler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent. June Reisinger commented that we'll learn so much from this year's work that will help us create a vision for the future.

New Business:

- *Join Hands needs volunteers for 1000 kids, still need 300 volunteers.*
- Frank Campbell reported:
 - that the next Naloxone training is set for December 12 at Madison Grange, Loysville 6-8:30 p.m.
 - the Greenwood Advisory Council on Career Planning is recommending that a Junior Achievement program be instituted.
 - Newport Water Authority is undertaking a study to determine the best way to provide water to the fair grounds.
 - RACB line item for Downtown Revitalization in Perry County is contained in Senate Bill 905. The program must meet a million-dollar threshold but can be composed of multiple communities.
- Rich Pluta mentioned the Chamber of Commerce commemorative wine – see Taira.

Adjourn:

Patti McLaughlin proposed a motion to adjourn and Brenda Watson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent at 8:40 AM.

Post Meeting Information Session:

Tripp Muldrow, with downtown revitalization consultant Arnett/Muldrow, provided a briefing on the work their four-member team did during the week. He introduced his colleagues: Tom McGilloway - landscape architect, Stephanie Francis - project management and funding, Bob Brookover - rural tourism. In addition, Ben Muldrow – design - Randy Wilson - architect/renderings and representatives from the PA Downtown Center will be part of the team during future visits to the area. This goal of this week's work was to perform a rapid reconnaissance of the area and immersion into the culture of Perry County. The team was "ecstatic" with the community participation exhibited (Newport 12 reps, Duncannon 16, Marysville 6). The evening meeting with the townships had a low participation rate but had two key townships - Howe and Penn Township. Marita Kelly from DCED participated in the arts/historical visioning session. Newport representatives have a keen interest in their downtown and furthering its renewal. Duncannon had a great turnout. Both communities have interest in access to the river. Millerstown looking at enhancing their park and boat landing. Landisburg focused on sewer plant property, Blain looking for ways to keep character and capitalize on visitors. We met each community on its home turf to maximize their participation. We heard that PCEDA is recognized as the engine that is pumping vibrancy through the county's effort.

Tripp and his team will be preparing a master schedule for the next phase of the project and we should expect it soon.