**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**April 11, 2024**

**Perry County Economic Development Authority**

**Perry County Business and Tourism Center**

**New Bloomfield, PA.**

**Attendees:** Ed Barben, Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta, Russ Hoover, Frank Campbell, Duane Hertzler, Dee Anderson, Patti McLaughlin, Scott Dunkleberger

**Virtual participants:** David Misner

**Staff:** Michelle Jones

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** Lindsey Hutchinson

**Visitors:** Jason Finnerty

**Call to Order:**

The April 2024 PCEDA Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Roberts at 8:25

AM.

**Public Comment:** Jason Finnerty, the county planner reports as follows:

Jason shared That Millerstown Borough has adopted their own subdivision land development ordinance (SALDO). As a result of this the County will only have input regarding plans that are submitted to Millerstown Borough as the borough now has their own planning committee. Also, Millerstown is working on a safety/bike/pedestrian planning initiative. Discussion about trails,

downtown improvements and meeting with Penn Dot.

Greenwood Township has a new agriculture operation planned, and another solar farm has been planned on Dan Paul property. It is smaller and is along 34.

Jason has revisited many of the municipalities regarding Picture Perry. There are still eight (8) municipalities Tyrone, Juniata, Liverpool, Penn, Rye, Wheatfield, and Carroll that have not signed on to participate. Jason has visited all of these municipalities and had an additional meeting with Wheatfield Township. They gave a mixed reaction at this meeting. So, he is hopeful.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Dee Anderson presented the minutes of PCEDA’s meeting on March 14, 2024, which had been distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. The minutes were redistributed at the meeting with corrections. There was a motion by Patti McGlaughlin, and Russ Hoover seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* The Financial Report was presented for the period ending March 31, 2024, prepared by Robert Morris & Co., which was distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. Patti presented. RCDI expense to website. DCED4 money to fair.
* RCDI reimbursement came in.
* DCED for fair expenses to get a plan in place with the engineering firm.

There was a motion by Russ Hoover, and Ed Barben seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Chair Report:**

Marti Roberts reported as follows:

* Marti reported on the meeting with Bill Bunt regarding the 501(c) 3. Attorney Bunt will make sure the correct language is used to make sure the 501 designation and the hotel tax we hope to implement coincide, so the PCEDA receives the tax revenue to use for county projects.
* Michelle Jones has been in touch with Saxton & Stump and received a quote of $5000.00-$9000.00 to create the 501(c) for the PCEDA.
* Newport is still making decisions on their art installation, and discussions are moving forward with our Senators to discuss the two murals in Millerstown and Marysville. The first installation will be in New Buffalo. Blain has reached an agreement with the property owner to place a mural on private property. Maybe a deed restriction or some form of legal document should be put in place to protect the mural in case the property is sold to a new owner.
* Marti informed the board that she had a final meeting with consultants regarding the fairground improvements. A comprehensive look at upgrading facilities and significant improvements to two buildings (big red and fancy house). Also new stage. Preliminary budgets are estimated at several million dollars. This project will need significant fundraising efforts. The question was asked are there still courts and fields on the drawing.
* The new sports complex and progress was mentioned. Patti suggested we reach out to York County, as they just broke ground on a sports complex.
* Notified about appropriation money available with two state senators. We applied last

minute for engineering/planning for safer sidewalks, crosswalks, etc. Brenda Watson

discussed the project with Senator Casey. We asked for $600k for planning,

engineering, and communications with consultants regarding the fair study. The consultants are working on a preliminary budget that should be completed in Apil.

Borough assignments were sent. Ed has attended the Liverpool meeting. Positive feedback

about that committee. Please attend your borough meeting.

Rich moved to apply for EDCDI money $150k Patti seconded. Motion carried.

**Staff Reports:**

Michelle Jones reported on Engage, PCEDA new ideas and updates, RFP, etc.

Pilot program to apply for 250k grant and we assess up to 1% admin fee on behalf of

Newport Elementary PTO. Patti moved. Ed seconded.

Michelle reminded the board of upcoming important dates.

Wednesday April 17th career fair at Family Life Center. She needs help at 4:00 pm on Tuesday to set up and Wednesday morning at 7:00 am for the career fair sign-up.

Engage is May 10th in Blain.

Business walks will be conducted on May 16th in New Bloomfield.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Snap on tool factory left a fund for business development. There is a group that

administers the fund and hasn’t been active. There was discussion of merging the fund. The last

activity was the Literacy Council call center. The group doesn’t have much capacity to be active. Discussion about involving EDA, there is $144k in the fund. Could it be seed money, microloan, low interest loans?

They want to meet before July 30. Scott Dunkelberger would like to participate. Frank will send some dates.

Michelle wanted everyone to take note of the borough or township they have been assigned. She asks that each person should attend the meetings on a regular basis and report back to the board about the meetings and activities.

**Adjourn:**

Patti McGlaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting, Frank Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without dissent at 10:04 AM