**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**February 13, 2025**

**Perry County Economic Development Authority**

**Perry County Business and Tourism Center**

**New Bloomfield, PA.**

**Attendees:** Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta, Ed Barben, Scott Fritz, Frank Campbell

**Virtual participants:** Duane Hertzler, Dee Anderson, David Misner

**Staff:** Michelle Jones, Lisa Fickes

**Absent:** Lindsay Hutchinson, Patti Mclaughlin

**Excused:**

**Visitor:**

**Public Comment:** Jason Finnerty was unable to attend but did provide a detailed report, and informed the board that we still have eight municipalities that have not signed on to the comp plan.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Dee Anderson presented the minutes of PCEDA’s meeting on January 9, 2025, which had been distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. There was a motion to approve the secretary’s report by Ed Barben and Rich Pluta seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Patti was absent so Rich presented the treasure report. December and January reports were presented in advance of the meeting. We had the normal expenses.  There was a motion to approve the treasurer’s report by Ed Barben and Rich Pluta seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Chair Report:**

Marti Roberts reported as follows:

 Discussion about 501c3. The board has a viable firm with a fair estimate to complete the 501c3. The firm is Eckard Seamans. Rich Pluta moved to accept the contract. Scott Fritz seconded. This attorney helps with many county projects. This firm will be helping to establish the hotel tax as well. PCEDA will be paying $12,000 -15,000, the county will pay the 5,000-7000-hotel tax portion. Motion carried.

There was a motion by Rich Pluta, and Scott Dunkelberger.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

The Fair grounds feasibility study has been completed. The Fair applied for an LSA grant, through the county and they received the funds. They are interested in using the money to improve a fair building. A meeting will be held March 3rd at 7:00pm at the grange. PCEDA will attend the meeting to try and explain how a capital campaign will be more productive for getting the entire project done. We have grant money lined up for a capital

campaign. We’d suggest reaching out to corporate offices for major donations, etc.

Penn Strategies thinks we can change the scope without problem. An email will be sent with more information about the fair meeting. Scott Dunkleberger added that if we change the scope, we could lose the LSA grant if we don’t nail the fundraising project. A 3-year project is typical. Working a Capital campaign is a big deal, and we feel it will secure the success of the project.

Transitions: Marti discussed challenges with board involvement. The PCEDA Board will soon have the opportunity to refine their involvement to be aligned with their interest. Rich talked about the evolution of economic development efforts in Perry County over the past 10 years and it’s time to refine our efforts going forward.

**Staff Report:**

Michelle discussed the Career Fair. This will be the 3rd year we have hosted this event. The job fair will be April 15th from 8am-11am at the Family Life Center.

Rich Pluta moved to proceed with the audit completed by Rollins. We will pay up to

$3500.00, Frank Campbell seconded the motion.

**Main Street Coordinator:**

Lisa shared with us that the ambassador meeting was held in November, attendance is tough this time of year. Ed and Marti were present. Missing were Marysville and Millerstown they are usually very engaged. Looked at 4 pillars of Main Street and planning discussion. Next meeting will be March 11. The unveiling of huckleberry in New Bloomfield will be in March. We need to get a guest list together. Liverpool’s art installation will be in April. April will be the unveiling of many art installations. Some of the committees will have different types of meetings, maybe not monthly but some of the municipalities are looking to work together and we need to inform the new board members what having a town means.

**Old Business:** Scott Dunkleberger asked for an update on the grant administrator job. The county has considered funding this position and have discussed the challenges the position may face.

**New Business:** None

**Adjourn:** Rich Pluta made a motion to adjourn, Frank Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without dissent at 9:42 am.