**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**May 9, 2024**

**Perry County Economic Development Authority**

**Perry County Business and Tourism Center**

**New Bloomfield, PA.**

**Attendees:** Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta, Russ Hoover, Frank Campbell, Dee Anderson, Lindsey Hutchinson, Patti McLaughlin

**Virtual participants:** David Misner, Ed Barben, Scott Dunkelberger, Duane Hertzler

**Staff:** Michelle Jones

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** None

**Virtual Visitor:** Jason Finnerty

**Call to Order:**

The May 2024 PCEDA Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Marti Roberts at 8:30

AM.

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

Jason shared Oliver Township, proposing sanitary sewer for three homes at a cost of $98,000.00. Oliver Township is asking for a grant of $80,000.00. Also, an environmental review for Clarks Ferry Tavern. The county has reviewed 34 plans this year. There was a solar application submitted on 7 acres that is the Loy property. Jason gave a summary of the economic development work group meeting which mostly revolved around the Millerstown mural project and the trail.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Dee Anderson presented the minutes of PCEDA’s meeting on April 11, 2024, which had been distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. Marti pointed out a correction that need to be made. There was a motion by Patti McGlaughlin, and Frank Campbell 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 April 30, 2024, prepared by Robert Morris & Co., which was distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. Patti presented.
* RCDI reimbursement was received at a total of $19,000.00.
* A check for $26,300.00 will be paid for the arts project.
* Normal expenses were reviewed.

There was a motion by Russ Hoover, and Duane Hertzler seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

Audit with Herring, Roll and Solomon at a cost of $3150.00.

A motion to accept by Russ Hoover, and Rich Pluta seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent

**Chair Report:**

Marti Roberts reported as follows:

* Marti discussed concerns of some of the board members about all board members attending meetings in person several times throughout the year instead of always attending virtually. This would result in a change in the bylaws that will state the number of meetings which each board member must attend in person throughout the year.
* The transition to create the 501(c) 3 which will be the umbrella for which all other organizations will fall under. Michelle asked for a workshop to discuss how to proceed with the umbrella (501c3) and the organizations that will be under the umbrella.
* Michelle, Marti, Rich and Frank met with the Industrial Development organization which was formed in the early 50’s by Snap on Tools to help local Newport Businesses. The organization currently has $100,000.00 in the bank. They would like the EDA to put the money to good use. They have asked us to submit a proposal of our intentions with the funds. USDA has a microlending program with a 15% match.
* Jasmine gave a presentation to the Millerstown Borough to approve the mural for their art installation.
* The board discussed the success of the arts installation projects in each borough. The board members think it would be best to have a ribbon cutting for each art project as it is completed.

**Staff Reports:**

Please attend the Dunkin Donuts grand opening May 30, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Our website is being redeveloped. Any help would be appreciated. Please review and make any suggestions.

Façade projects 2/3 complete. There are several that still need some additional information to be finalized.

Please try to attend borough clean up days if possible.

Michelle may have a lead with a sign company to help us with the Wayfinding project.

Rich and Michelle have 4 business clients currently. It is a great program and has helped several local businesses get started by getting the guidance they need.

Rich, Ed, Lindsey Duane and Marti discussed their most recent visits to their assigned boroughs.

**Old Business:** The county has gathered all the local lodging facilities and there are currently 78 locations. Michelle suggested we get with Pearl Jade and have a strategy session on how to approach each borough to discuss the hotel tax and get them on board to help get the tax implemented.

**New Business:** None

**Adjourn:**

Patti McGlaughlin moved to adjourn the meeting, Frank Campbell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without dissent at 9:52 AM