**Minutes of Board Meeting**

**November 14, 2024**

**Perry County Economic Development Authority**

**Perry County Business and Tourism Center**

**New Bloomfield, PA.**

**Attendees:** Marti Roberts, Rich Pluta, Duane Hertzler, Ed Barben, Lindsey Hutchinson, Scott Fritz, Dee Anderson

**Virtual participants:** David Misner

**Staff:** Michelle Jones, Lisa Fickes

**Absent:** Patti McLaughlin, Frank Campbell

**Excused:**

**Visitor:** Jason Finnerty

**Call to Order:**

The November 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:

Seventy-one new plans for the year, seven less than last year. Land Development plans submitted for an agricultural operation in Oliver Township. Continuing hazard mitigation plan is with the consultant there will be more public meetings in the spring. There was a risk assessment meeting last month most municipalities are participating to some extent. More state and federal regulations continue to apply. Picture Perry additions and amendments should be in to the county planner before December 31st. Future land use adjustments for Penn Township land use along 849. Planned growth area needs to shift. Conservancy workshop at King's Gap was attended by the county planner. The county is trying to find parcels to preserve additional ground on continue Kittatiny Ridge. There are plans for a data center in Cumberland County. The solar lease agreements need to be reviewed more thoroughly. There are some things that were missed like the topsoil being taken off the mountains. The solar companies are selling topsoil that are located under the panels. The solar companies also seem to be focusing on places that don't have any zoning. Juniata county is looking at this issue now.

**Secretary’s Report:**

Dee Anderson presented the minutes of PCEDA’s meeting on October 10, 2024, which had been distributed to all board members in advance of today’s meeting. Lindsay Hutchinson’s name was spelled wrong and will be corrected. 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:**

* Rich Pluta presented the treasures’ report. Next month we will receive state reimbursement of $37,000 and $20,000 in 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:

 Marty Roberts the board chair discussed the need for money in the early days they started with $7000 in the bank in 2015. Things have definitely changed and we have been receiving multiple grants and funds needed to complete the economic development projects the board would like to pursue we have received 50,000 for the Sports Complex through a grant. There is $250,000 in engineering and cost for the 9 boroughs for the improvement or installation of sidewalks trees and additional items to improve the appearance of the borough we have $350,000 for engineering for the Sports Complex not quite sure how we will disperse these funds the applicant was the fairgrounds and they received $900,000 for installation of public restrooms improvement of buildings rebuilding the entertainment stage and many other future projects to improve the fairgrounds and to make it a more a more inviting location for additional events to be brought into the county we're going to suggest they use the money to start a capital campaign to match the 900,000 they have received. The fair board is very excited the commissioners really want this to happen as well so there is a tremendous amount of support and the prospect of this project looks very promising. Rich informed the board that the LSA grant is money from the casinos normally a state grant can't be used for a match but the LSA grant can be used as a match fairgrounds can bring a lot of events once the improvements are made. The first meeting with Sports Complex and Kimmel Boggrette. Kimmel Boggrette Has done many of these Sports Complex in many areas the second meeting will be coming up virtually and they will show us the buildings should go and what will happen moving forward with the economic development in the county at the heart of the improvements.

Marty attended the ambassador meeting Tuesday evening there was a very good turnout.

There was a motion by Rich Pluta, and Ed Barben seconded. Frank Campbell recused himself.

The motion was approved by a voice vote without dissent.

**Staff Report:**

The Wayfinding Project is moving forward. We are going to divide the county into 14 municipalities to do the survey this week we should have the map for where the PennDot signs are located, and we need to confirm these locations and see if we have missed any that are in the right of way of PennDOT. These signs will help us determine where to locate the wayfinding signs that we will be installing. Michelle also informed us that we need to update the five-year budget. November 18th there will be a meeting with the commissioners about the 501C3 or a 501C6.

**Main Street Coordinator:** Lisa informed the board that we hosted the

He Ambassadors meeting with a good turnout.

Lisa expressed her concerns about the nightly meetings that are being attended monthly in each municipality. She feels these are not working the way we had hoped in bringing the municipalities and boroughs together to create activities and improve their hometowns. She feels like there are many of the locations that have a great attendance and then there are several locations that she attends meetings where there may be one person or none. She feels we need to find a more effective way to work with these groups and a process that will help engage more volunteers and promote a better understanding of the intentions of the Perry County economic development authority and the Main Street program.

Blain has not finalized the arts mural project. Newport just started looking at what they will be doing for their arts project. Ed Barben informed us that Liverpool is short $2300.00 dollars for the art project they have implemented.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** We are all very proud of Lindsay to be recognized as 40 under 40 in the Central Penn Business Journal. We all feel she has done an amazing job with her business, and we are honored to have her on our board.

**Adjourn:** Ed Barben made a motion to adjourn, Rich Pluta seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without dissent at 9:41 AM