

Pike County Economic Development Corporation

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room

April 24, 2017

Attendees

Jim Sheppard, Brenda Middendorf, Kaye Iftner, Craig Gengler, Pat Conley, Jeff Hogge, Robert Wood, Diane Vose, Blake Roderick, Casey French

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Conley, Chairman at 5:30pm. Meeting agenda and February 2017 minutes were provided via email to members and were available for review.

Minutes

After review, Blake Roderick made the motion to approve the minutes as written, second, Robert Wood. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Craig Gengler summarized the Balance sheet as of April 20, 2017. Checking--\$34,294.00. PCEDC Savings-- \$32,819.22, Total Current Assets-- \$67,113.22. Profit and Loss February 27 through April 20, 2017: Program Income--Membership Dues \$1685.00, Program Service fees \$1490.00. Gross Profit \$3,181.51. Total expenses of \$2516.58. Net Income was \$654.93.

Director's Report

Director Brenda Middendorf reviewed the written director's report. She indicated Jim Boyd was filling in for Sean Park and had met with two businesses to help prepare their Business Plan. Jim and Brenda will be scheduling Business Retention visits in the near future.

An explanation of Community Supported Enterprises was provided. Norm Walzer, Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs has requested a letter of support for an EDA grant that he is writing to provide assistance to those communities interested in working with Community Supported Enterprises. Examples of what those types of businesses could be were provided.

Recent Tax Accommodations grant applications were reviewed. Grants were awarded to New Philadelphia Association, Abe Lincoln Project and Whitetail Properties. Discussion on what lodges were paying the accommodations tax and efforts made to get all lodges paying.

Two new revolving loan applications are pending approval by County Board.

Closed Session

A motion was made to go into Closed Session by Jeff Hogge, second, Blake Roderick. Motion carried. The Board went into closed session at 6:00pm.

Old Business

Annual Meeting Review – Consensus was everyone liked the format of visiting a business and taking a tour and would like to continue this direction. Meal was exceptionally good. It was mentioned that next year John Wood Community College had invited PCEDC to their new site.

New Business

Review Draft of Strategic Plan - Brenda has taken the surveys from the Strategic Planning sessions in January, 2016 and the identified items from the 4 months of Strategic Planning and the combined them with the CEDS Plan that Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials is updating. This is a draft document. Brenda will email the draft to all members.

Employer Workshop/Job Fair- There are currently 20 businesses participating in the Job Fair. Brenda encouraged everyone to try to share information about the event to get potential employees to attend. Flyers were provided for distribution.

Energy innovation Workshop – Draft agenda as been put together for June 8th.

AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer- Application has been completed and submitted. Funding assistance is being reviewed. No one will be available in September. First available will be in January.

Community Supported Enterprises- Norman Walzer, Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, has requested a letter of support for an EDA grant he is applying for to provide assistance to communities interested in creating Community Supported Enterprises. Consensus was to provide this letter.

Expansion Solutions Ad – Gary Camarano presented an opportunity to attain some inexpensive ad space for Pike County EDC to build market awareness. An ad package of 3 full page ads in the next three issues of Expansion Solutions magazine with PCEDC contact information included in ¼ of the page while still getting the effect of a full page ad. Cost sharing for the three ads would be \$1,000. He included a draft of the ad. After discussion it was decided to send to the Promotion/Marketing/Membership Committee and support their decision. Brenda indicated that a representative had contacted her and the City of Pittsfield about a similar ad in Trade & Industry magazine and the cost was several thousand.

Chairman's Comments- Patrick Conley had no comments.

Member Updates and Comments-

Casey French reported CASS Communications is upgrading to CISCO boxes and is sending out a mailer. This will be a 2 to 3 months process. Fiber is coming to town for expansion to the schools, Farm Bureau building and JWCC.

Kaye Iftner – Reported the Chamber Golf Outing is Friday. An Act on Energy Lunch & Learn is scheduled for May 2 and the Chamber is offering webinars for Small Business Week from April 30 to May 6.

Blake Roderick – reported they will be remodeling and upgrade the Farm Bureau building. Still has 1500 to 2000 square feet to rent. Fiber will add value to the new renter. Farm Bureau will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary of the organization. He reported there would be a CAG meeting for the Florence bridge April 25 in Winchester. He also reported that the Sny Drainage District's concerns were addressed for the approach to the Champ Clark Bridge so the road would not flood. The Sny DD has approved the configuration insuring the bridge construction will move forward. A new Country Financial agent has been hired.

Robert Wood – The City Wide clean up continues through Saturday. He reported on construction by LSSD and a culvert in Quail Ridge has been installed as part of the Safe Routes for Kids program. Maya has moved into their new building.

Diane Vose – reported on progress at the JWCC site. They are planning classes for fall. They are also partnering with Gardner Camp and SIU School of Medicine. There will be a board meeting April 25 with dramatic cuts due to budget.

Jeff Hogge reported the City of Barry also held a city wide clean up.

Exit Closed Session

A motion was made to come out of Closed Session by Blake Roderick, second, Robert Wood. Motion carried. The Board came out of closed session at 6:45pm.

Voting for Closed Session items

Adjournment

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn by Blake Roderick, second, Kaye Iftner. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brenda Middendorf filling in for Karrie Spann, Secretary.

Next meeting: Executive Meeting-May 22, 2017 Pike County Farm Bureau building.