

Pike County Economic Development Corporation Meeting Minutes

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room

June 27, 2016

Attendees

Jim Brown, Jim Sheppard, Max Middendorf, Brenda Middendorf, Diane Vose, Blake Roderick, Casey French, Tom Allen, Kent Goewey, Greg Dolbeare, Randy Bleich, Jeff Hogge.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Brown at 5:30pm. Meeting agenda and minutes were provided via email to members.

Minutes

After review, Kent Goewey made the motion to approve the December 28, 2015 Quarterly Membership minutes as written, second by Blake Roderick. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Jim Sheppard summarized the financial report. Balance Sheet: Total Current Assets-\$49,437.16, Payroll Liabilities-\$644.71, Total Equity-\$48,792.4. Profit and Loss (June 6-June 27, 2016): Membership Dues-\$500.00, Total Expenses-\$1,771.96, Net Ordinary Income- \$-1,271.96. Profit and Loss (January 1-June 27, 2016): Gross Profit- \$39,401.72, Total Expense- \$16,036.71, Net Income- \$23,365.01. Blake Roderick made the motion to place the financial report on file, Casey French second. Motion carried. Jim Brown asked if a comparison report could be provided for the next meeting of where we were financially at this same time last year.

Director's Report

Brenda Middendorf summarized her written report. She attended a CDBG Workshop for two days in Springfield; all membership invoices and Revolving Loan Fund invoices were up to date; Revolving Loan Fund in good shape. Three grant awards were recommended by the Tax Advisory Board and contracts prepared. Workforce Readiness program criteria revamped and program renamed Work Ready. Had a productive Business Education Roundtable in June. Business Retention & Workforce Development Committee and Renewable Energy/Telecommunication Committee met and scheduled meetings from Small Business and Community Needs/Municipal Issues. WBBA Spotlight show on June 13 focused on Business Education Roundtable. Hosted an Elected Officials meeting with the focus being on the US Hwy 54 after the bridge is completed. It was decided to conduct a survey of businesses to see what

percentage of their traffic came from US Hwy 54. Bill McCartney has volunteered to conduct the survey. Brenda will help with surveys outside of Pittsfield. Jim Brown addressed the issue brought up at the Elected Officials meeting of there being a lack of parking for trucks pulling boats/campers and even transport trucks to stop and eat anywhere. He felt this was something we needed to work on in coming years once the bridge is built. Greg Dolbeare addressed the need of improving US Highway 54 to a minimum 3 lanes or having a passing lane. The surveys will provide a baseline of what the traffic is now and future surveys after the bridge is constructed could measure the increase in traffic. Projections then could be drawn as to what traffic could be if the highway were improved. Brenda reminded everyone the Highway 54 Corridor meeting would be July 20th at 10:00 am at Farm Bureau auditorium.

Quarterly Committee Updates

- **Business Retention & Workforce Development**
 - 56 Workforce Readiness t-shirts were printed and awarded to Griggsville, Pleasant Hill and Western students
 - Committee Work Plan was developed
 - Awarded Workforce Readiness Certificate to 9 freshmen at Pleasant Hill on May 5
 - Implemented exercise for previous Certificate holders to keep their certificate active
 - Contacted businesses identified as key employers of students
 - Revised Workforce Readiness scoring criteria to be more effective
 - Changed name to Work Ready
 - Signs/decals will be made to identify businesses participating in WR program
 - WBBA Spotlight Show
 - Business Education Roundtable held June 14
- **Community Needs /Municipal Issues**
 - Developed 2016 Work Plan
 - Contacted Illinois Municipal League re hosting their Elected Officials training
 - Hosted an Elected Officials Meeting June 15th
 - Collecting data for the update to the CEDS Plan
 - Conducting a Transportation Survey and Hwy 54 Business Survey
 - Planning a Highway 54 Coalition meeting for July 20th
- **Small Business/Entrepreneurship**
 - Scheduled to meet June 29th
 - Will be reviewing business workshops available through SBDC
- **Renewable Energy/Telecommunications**
 - Monitoring Ameren, Clean Line, Dakota Access and other projects in area.

- Providing updates to Port Authority activity
 - Investigating Solar energy projects as to what hurdles there are and what technology is available
 - Planning an Energy Fair in 2017
 - Monitoring Telecommunications projects throughout county
 - Goal set to increase public knowledge of Renewable Energy and Telecommunication Projects in the Region
- **Promotions/Marketing/Membership**
 - Six New members added and two members returning
 - Helped create marketing contract to hire consultant
 - Working with Marketing Consultant to update PCEDC brochure

After Quarterly Committee updates were provided, Brenda reported that the Renewable Energy/Telecommunications Committee had brought up the question as to whether there was a need for an Agriculture Committee. Brenda asked Randy Bleich for his thoughts on this. He felt there were things an Agriculture Committee could be involved with, i.e., Hosting a Farmer Appreciation Night, holding a Farmer Roundtable, maybe providing water at elevators during harvests. Max Middendorf mentioned an Ag Committee could also work with JWCC on programming through the college for farmers.

Old Business

Complete 54 Corridor Group Update

This was already discussed under Committee updates.

Update on SB 2531

Legislation was sent to Governor Rauner on June 24th. Brenda read the letter received from the Governor in response to the letter PCEDC sent requesting he veto SB 2531.

New Business

Midwest CDI

Brenda asked for feedback from the group as to whether they wanted her to attend Midwest CDI this year. She has applied and received a \$200 scholarship in case the group decided they wanted her to go because the deadline was before the meeting. Brenda was asked to explain what CDI was; it is a 3 year program to train/educate economic developers. Each year they hold classes for a week of compressed training. Brenda has already attended one year. Kent Goewey moved, Blake Roderick seconded, motion to have Brenda attend Midwest CDI. Motion carried. Costs are estimated to be around \$850 with the scholarship.

Update to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Brenda explained Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials was in the process of updating the current CEDS plan. Next year the entire plan will need to be rewritten. Communities and municipalities need to check the current plan for accuracy and add new projects. Another component of the CEDS plan is the Disaster Economic Resiliency Plan. Sean Park has volunteered to help draft this plan for Pike County.

Chairman's Comments

No comments tonight.

Member updates and Comments

Jim Brown – reported the new station will be built in 2017 and will have an area for large trucks or trucks pulling trailers/boats.

Tom Allen – asked the question if the pipeline people were lodging in Pike County. Reports there are some staying at City Lake and Pine Lakes.

Randy Bleich- confirmed rumors that JBS United is for sale. Parent Company wants to concentrate on Animal Health/Nutrition. He anticipates this will be a 6 to 9 month process, culminating the end of November or December. Several companies have indicated an interest. He also reported that by August 1 they will be able to load 85 car trains. He also announced he will be retiring after purchase is complete and Dale Plummer is now the General Manager.

Jim Sheppard reported the ambulance building is now occupied.

Greg Dolbeare reported he is waiting on IDNR. The comment period ends July 15 on the impact his project could have on the mussel population in the Mississippi River.

Diane Vose reported that JWCC finished Children's College last week with 54 seats compared to 20 last year. They have a balance budget for the coming year. Budgeted 5% from the State. Asked to let them know any programming that you would like to see JWCC include.

Max Middendorf reported that JWCC new facility would be a good opportunity for broader participation. The Pittsfield Animal Shelter air handling unit will be tested tomorrow and the City of Pittsfield broke ground on the new fire station. State funded transportation projects may shut down on Friday.

Brenda Middendorf-planning the next winery tour for Grafton on Sept. 17.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 25, 2016 5:30pm at the Pike County Farm Bureau Building. Next Quarterly Meeting is September 26, 2016.

Adjournment

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn by Kent Goewey, second, Casey French. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Karrie Spann, Secretary.