**Pike County Economic Development Corporation**

**Executive Board Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**February 22, 2021**

**Attendees**

Brenda Middendorf, Camden Arnold, Karrie Spann, Patrick Conley, Jeff Hogge, Robert Wood, Shawn Rennecker, Diane Vose, Kent Goewey, David Camphouse

**Call to Order**

The Zoom Virtual meeting was called to order by Patrick Conley, Chairman, at 5:35pm.

**Minutes**

Meeting agenda and minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting were provided via email to members for review. Kent Goewey made the motion to approve the minutes. Robert Wood, second. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Brenda Middendorf summarized the written Financial Reports. Balance Sheet as of February 18, 2021, Total Liabilities & Equity $85,359.44. Profit & Loss, January 25-February 18, 2021, Net Income $3,383.91. Profit & Loss, January 1-February 18, 2021, -2,016.91. Income by Customer Summary Total $4,300.00. Rumors and Wright Place Auto Body are new members.

**Marketing Report**

Still working on the InCity aquaponics project possibility and 2 other projects.

**Director’s Report**

Brenda Middendorf summarized her written report. Working with potential new businesses, webinars, Annual Meeting prep. Revolving Loan Fund has taken a lot of time, will be compensated for the time by the Pike County Board. Business Work on the Education Roundtable and with Picture Pittsfield. Virtual Small Business workshop was well attended.

***Kent Goewey made the motion to enter into closed session. Jeff Hogge, second. Motion carried.***

**Old Business**

Camden Arnold reported on SizeUp. SizeUp is an online tool that helps private sector, government, and non-profit organizations better serve their small business customers with the market research and business intelligence. No small rural communities are currently using SizeUp so not sure how or if this would be beneficial for PCEDC to use. Brenda Middendorf and Shawn Rennecker both voiced that it would be good to keep this in mind but keep it on hold for now.

Danish Tour update-this is a tour of Danish hog producers/pork production. Illinois Pork Producers will follow up but have some hesitation considering that this could be competition in Pork Production. PCEDC’s participation in this is on hold at this time.

PCEDC Survey Update-15 responses, Brenda Middendorf summarized some of the responses. Challenges noted were jobs, housing, and amenities. Top priorities were Business recruitment and retaining the business were currently have in the County.

**New Business**

Rural Community Economic Development Conference will be held virtually this year. Brenda Middendorf & Camden Arnold will be attending. There is a paid spot left for any member who would like to attend.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 via Zoom with Glenn Ford from InCity as the guest speaker. Brenda Middendorf is working on the Annual Report which will cover two years. The Annual Meeting was not held last year due to the COVID pandemic.

Accommodations Tax Update-recommended that hotels be allowed to apply for marketing expenses equal to the amount paid in. Other grant applications were suspended until the 2021 cycle.

JWCC Golf Fundraiser will be Monday, May 8, 2021 PCEDC generally sponsors a hole for $150.

Apprenticeship Program- this is a good opportunity for trades and businesses. This is part of the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board. A letter will be sent to area businesses both members and nonmembers that might want to participate.

**Chairman’s Comments**

None

**Visitor’s Comments**

David Camphouse was in attendance. He is the new Director of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce.

**Member Updates & Comments**

Brenda Middendorf-Access deer donations were a huge success. Hilltop Meats were great to work with. Finishing final grant reports and applying for new grants for 2021.

Diane Vose-JWCC is getting more and more back to normal. Staff is getting their COVID vaccines and there should be less students doing Remote Learning by March.

Robert Wood-Natural gas prices in the City of Pittsfield and other municipalities are seeing huge increases in prices. Hoping for some help/relief from the State of Illinois.

Kent Goewey-SMOOTH SAILING IN GRIGGSVILLE

***A motion was made to exit closed session at 6:15pm by Robert Wood. Kent Goewey, second. Motion carried.***

Kent Goewey made a motion for PCEDC to be a $150 Hole Sponsor for the JWCC golf fundraiser, Robert Wood, second. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeff Hogge. Kent Goewey, second. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 6:18pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karrie Spann, Secretary.

Next Executive/Voting Meeting: April 26, 2021

Next Quarterly Meeting: March 24, 2021 Annual Meeting