

Pike County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation

Executive Board Membership Meeting Minutes

Pike County Farm Bureau Building

January 27, 2025

Attendees

Brenda Middendorf, Karrie Spann, Craig Gengler, Max Middendorf, Jeff Hogge, Diane Vose, Robert Wilson, Jamie Beasley, Patrick Conley, Kent Goewey, Jim Sheppard.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Conley, Chairman, at 5:31 pm.

Minutes

Meeting agenda and minutes of the November 25, 2024, meeting were provided for review. Craig Gengler made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jeff Hogge. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Craig Gengler summarized the Financial Report. Balance Sheet as of January 21, 2025, Total Liabilities & Equity \$257,516.00. Profit & Loss, November 25, 2024-January 21, 2025, Net Income -\$6,527.21. Profit & Loss, January-December 2024, Gross Profit \$109,614.28, Total Expense \$45,972.17, Net Income \$63,542.11. Income by Customer Survey, January-December 2024, Total \$57,244.74. Income by Customer Survey, January 1-21, 2025, Total \$2,981.00. Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison, January-December 2024, Net Income \$63,642.11; January-December 2023, Net Income \$40,573.15. A

motion to place the financial report on file was made by Kent Goewey, seconded by Jim Sheppard. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Jamie Beasley summarized her written report. Membership invoicing for EDC & Chamber. Business visits, FB posts, working with Vervocity for proposal for new website with updates including the Chamber. Member newsletter and community events newsletter, met with Chamber committee in December and January. Met with telecommunications & renewable energy committee and registered PCCEDC for the Breakthrough Broadband cohort. Met with Pittsfield ED Director & Mayor. Met with Village Presidents of Hull and Kinderhook. Crowdfund Better training. Looking into RBDG grant to fund microbusinesses. Introduction to DCEO Small Business Capital & Infrastructure grant and it appears that there is a lot of interest in this grant. It might be beneficial to hold a meeting at the JWCC computer lab with businesses interested in the Small Business Capital & Infrastructure grant to help them with the registration and other steps necessary to be able to apply for the grant. Planning community conversation in Hull for February 18. Arranging meetings with in-home daycare providers to discuss requirements to be State licensed providers.

Old Business

Committees- Jamie has met with a few of the committees but continues to have difficulty scheduling meeting dates with others. She wanted to discuss to see if the Board felt that some of the committees needed to be revamped, possibly allow members from outside the PCCEDC membership, or perhaps the committee(s) should be dissolved? It was suggested that she send out new emails explaining the purpose and scope of each committee and see if new interest can be created from the membership.

Pike County Gift Boxes-Jamie has applied for the IFB Rural Development Grant and is still waiting to hear if we will be awarded the grant funds for the Holiday Gift Boxes.

Podcast-Jamie continues to reach out to Gordon Sanders, KJFM, Eagle 102.1 FM to get going with podcasts.

ZOE Theater-Jamie met with the Mayor and ED Director of Pittsfield and discussed the ZOE theater, she also met with Peter Wright regarding the ZOE. Jamie will continue to explore possibilities for the ZOE.

Free marketing videos-Jamie is spotlighting a member each month with short video to embed into the monthly newsletter/FB post.

New Business

Proposed budget-Jamie presented members with a tentative budget for 2025. The Board reviewed the budget and discussed several of the areas where the figures may decrease/increase such as website costs, which increased from \$490 to \$708. Similarly, PCCEDC is not likely to receive the \$15,000 from the Pike County Board until the Pike County Board completes the State required audits and are removed from the do not pay list.

Annual Meeting- Patrick Conley, Craig Gengler, and Jim Sheppard will serve as both the Planning Committee and the Nominating Committee for the PCCEDC Annual Meeting. The new Martin Tractor (John Deere) business outside of Summer Hill was suggested as a possible location for a tour before the Annual Meeting. It would then be convenient to hold the banquet at nearby Hopewell Winery following the tour.

IIRA conference- The 36th Annual Rural Community and Economic Development Conference will be held February 26 & 27 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. Jamie would like to attend. Kent Goewey made the motion for PCCEDC to pay for registration and

lodging for Jamie for the conference, seconded by Jeff Hogge. Motion carried.

Cell Phone provider-Jamie compared the costs of cell phone providers AT&T and U.S. Cellular. Her comparison found that U.S. Cellular is cheaper. The board members had questions regarding monthly pricing and whether a contract was necessary. Jamie will get back to the Board at next month's meeting with firm numbers regarding the cost comparison.

Pike CEO Interns-Jamie would like to hire two members from the area High School, Pike CEO program. They would work 5 hours per week (2.5 hours each) as PCCEDC interns. The interns would focus on FB posts, Instagram and other social media platforms as well as provide new ideas and insight into newsletter topics, etc. Interns would be paid \$10 per hour. Jeff Hogge made a motion to hire 2 High School students from the Pike CEO program as PCCEDC interns, seconded by Kent Goewey. Motion carried.

Chairman's Comments

None

Member's Comments

Robert Wilson-Pittsfield City Hall expansion continues, Make My Move incentive program has not worked out and likely won't continue.

Max Middendorf-MECO Engineering is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year and planning special events to celebrate this milestone. They have current job openings for engineers and technicians.

Diane Vose-FSFA training at JWCC tomorrow. The Annual JWCC Agriculture Banquet is February 6. The Illinois Master Naturalist Course from the Illinois Extension Office will be March 12-May 21, 2025, with registration due by February 28, 2025.

Brenda Middendorf- Access Food program in Pike County hit its goal with deer donations. However, Brown County and Schyler Counties fell a bit short of their goals. There were some glitches with the partnership with Feeding Illinois, but overall, it was a successful deer season. The Pike County Quail & Upland Management Association annual banquet will be held in Quincy at the Ambiance reception hall on February 22. A large venue for the banquet was not available in Pike County this year.

Jeff Hogge-water tower repairs in process, water and sewer system upgrades in process.

Adjournment

With business concluded, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kent Goewey, seconded by Craig Gengler. Motion carried. The meeting concluded at 6:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karrie Spann, Secretary.