

## **Pulaski County Community Development Commission**

Winamac Municipal Utilities Building Conference Room  
Winamac, Indiana 46996

May 5, 2009

### **Public Meeting Minutes**

PCCDC board members present: Rick Stone, David Broad, Steve Morrison, Courtney Poor, Michael Reetz, Richard Denney, and Rod Button.  
Daniel Dolezal, Executive Director.  
Guests: Fred Zahrt, Michelle Blevins.

#### **Regular Meeting Call to Order.**

Board President Rick Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

#### **Approve Minutes.**

The minutes of the April 7, 2009, CDC Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Richard Denney moved to accept the minutes as presented, Steve Morrison seconded, call for discussion, none, vote in favor, unanimous.

#### **Executive Director's Report.**

Dan Dolezal reported on various CDC activities during the previous month. He works with the economic development dept. of the Ind. Municipal Power Agency, and continues working with 11 other counties exploring a possible regional economic development organization. The economic stimulus package program is grinding slowly along. The Pulaski County comprehensive plan was discussed especially the portion concerning economic development. M.Reetz stated Purdue would be a good resource for developing an ag/tech park as suggested in the plan. Wind power applications were discussed. It was pointed out that any commercial development would require 18 to 24 months of sampling of wind speed before a project would begin. The Star City Regional Sewer District board is examining funding sources for tap fees for the residents on the new system. Information on free energy audits was distributed to county employers. Representatives from Purdue Technical Assistance Programs have been introduced to several county employers. Further meetings with other employers are being planned. Several employer contacts were made during April. The fourth welder training class of 2009 has begun with ten students enrolled. This is the last class before school adjourns for summer. Unemployment rates were discussed. Dan contacted a site selector firm in Indianapolis asking for a proposal for West Side Corridor development.

The CDC financial report for April was reviewed. At 4/30 the CDC was under budget for the year by \$6,500.

Dan finished his report with a review of the CDC Priority List. All six priorities are still ongoing. Funding for the computer training program through the Extension is proving elusive.

### **Old Business.**

New Resident (formerly Retiree) Recruitment Campaign update. A seven point summary was distributed. The TV ads in the Lafayette/West Lafayette market area have all been run. The effectiveness of the ads was discussed. Statistics from the county website for the three month period including the TV ads was reviewed. The number of visits was observed to increase during this time period. A strong inference can be made this is the result of the ads. The TV ad has been installed on the home page of the county website. The brochures are being distributed to tourist offices and visitor centers throughout the state. Letters to county alumni are being sent.

West Side Development Strategy. Awaiting a proposal from Ginovus, Inc., in Indianapolis. Copies of the county comprehensive plan submitted to Ginovus and DesCo.

Regional Economic Development Organization update. Meetings throughout the proposed region are ongoing. Dan expressed satisfaction with progress to date, but was somewhat skeptical of the size (12 counties) of the proposed region. Discussion ensued. The consensus was to continue participating, but make no commitment. Once the business plan and total membership are determined, the CDC Board will review and decide whether to join or not.

Municipal security cameras. The discussion from the previous month's meeting resumed. Rich Denney said Monterey is most interested in installing these cameras for vandalism abatement. It was suggested to contact Ind. Homeland Security for funding sources. Rod Button again mentioned the possible use of such cameras in the Winamac Town Park. The issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

Membership Committee. Have a possible new board member. More information next month.

### **New Business.**

Rick Stone recognized Fred Zahrt, President, Tippecanoe Beverages. Mr. Zahrt prefaced his presentation with comments regarding Winamac Tree Committee activities. He stated that the committee's tree planting work contributes significantly to the quality of life and economic health of the community. To prove his point he cited a City of Terre Haute study that showed tree landscaping in the city had brought more new business to town than any other activity.

He then began his discussion on billboard advertising, the reason for his appearance at the meeting. Courtney Poor explained he had contacted Fred regarding billboard signage promoting the "Welcome Back Home" campaign to recruit new residents. Fred said he has billboards located north of Winamac near the airport, south of Star City on Hwy 35,

and north of Monon on Hwy 421. The last location was of particular interest to the group. He explained the process for getting a new message on a billboard starting with the graphic design. The message is printed on vinyl then stretch and secured to the board. Vinyl signs are good for three years before fading becomes acute. He estimated that a 12x25 sign such as the one north of Monon would cost somewhere around \$2,700 per year. The board said they would get back to him after further discussion.

**Community Reports.**

Steve Morrison reported the Kiwanis Spring Fest is Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> in Winamac. Rod Button discussed the increase in residential wind energy fixtures. He also asked if certain medical activities such as therapies and rehabilitation were appropriate topics of inquiry for the CDC. He was assured that anything that increases employment and quality of life in the county was worth pursuing.

**Adjournment.**

Rich Denney moved to adjourn, David Broad seconded, vote unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

D.E.Dolezal  
Acting Secretary