

VENANGO COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018

Courthouse Annex Room 100

1174 Elk Street

Franklin, PA

Present:

Bonnie Summers

Bill Moon

Tim Brooks

Vince Witherup

Staff: Emily Lewis

Guests:

Jason Ruggiero, VCRPC

Ashley Smith, VCRPC

Deb Kapp, Resident

Excused: John Stiller
Rod Griffin
Chip Abramovic

- I. Call to Order – Commissioner Brooks
 - a. Monthly board meeting called to order by Tim Brooks at 10:03 A.M.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 2/20/2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Bonnie Summers; seconded by Bill Moon. So moved.
- III. Public Comment on Agenda Items
 - a. None.
- IV. Special Purpose Matters
 - a. Approval of Cornplanter Square Ownership
 - i. The County Commissioners approved to turn over the ownership of the building to the authority at their board meeting on March 13th to open up different funding streams.
 - b. Bill Moon motioned to approve the acceptance of ownership of the building; seconded by Vince Witherup.
- V. Ongoing Projects
 - a. Cornplanter Square Project
 - i. PHMC Grant – Filed

1. Filed for the roof project in the beginning of March and will hear the results in June. Emily intends to ask PHMC Charitable Trust for a contribution that will go towards the matching funds.
- ii. Power Grant – Due May 1, 2018
 1. Met with the Northwest Commission to discuss different Power applications that different agencies attend on applying for in the region. Trying to get a regional approach to Power grant applications to have the applications complement each other.
 2. This is run through the Application Regional Commission to target dislocated coal workers.
- iii. RACP – Contract Approved
 1. Working on getting the immediate wave of special conditions satisfied. Intends to use this grant source for the demo and abatement for Cornplanter Square. This gives a leg up on the second and third phases of the project.
 2. The City of Oil City plans on transferring the property of the parking lot to the authority. Bill Moon brought up that the City wants to keep collecting money from the parking meters until the building becomes operational. After the building is operational there will be 10 parking spaces dedicated to the city.
 3. Reminder: When talking with the grant manager, through the RACP funding stream you are not able to make a profit on this project with the county of the authority, but if we were to create an Economic Development Corporation and transfer ownership of operations to that we would be free and clear.
- b. eAcademy
 - i. Staff Update
 1. Spoke with Lindon Point representatives and got a proposal to bring EAcademy to Venango County. Reached out to Deb Sobina of Venango Campus to be the host for this Academy. Will be planning a meeting with the superintendents of the surrounding school districts to try and make this a reality for 2019-2020 school year. eAcademy is no cost to the student, but the school district would need to absorb a per student cost. Bonnie mentioned that Junior Achievement out of Gannon University has a program that is a short term program that seems like it could be a step before eAcademy.
- c. Senior Housing Center – Cranberry Township
 - i. Staff Update
 1. Hudson Group's council has been working with Rich Winkler, Authority Solicitor, about the option of sale agreement draft that was forward to Bruce Getsinger of Cranberry Township. Ashley in

the Planning Commission received the subdivision plan this week to be reviewed and recorded.

2. Meeting with ORA this Friday to talk about the remediation of the Fuch's property in Emlenton. Given the condition of the housing market in Emlenton Borough and Venango County as whole there is not the appetite for a developer to come in and assume the liability on their own. If we want to see that site and the adjacent Honeywell brownfield site be developed, we might need to become the developers of the last resort.

VI. Staff Report

- a. Jason met with ACValley Development. They are planning a \$5.5 Million water and sewage infrastructure project mostly in Butler County, but also in Scrubgrass Township around exit 42 on I-80 and towards Emlenton.
- b. Met with Mulu Birru and Bob Cranmer to see if they can take the lead on the airport development projects so we can concentrate on Cornplanter Square.
- c. Northwest Commission last round of Power was approved for a broadband study and this round they are applying for a broadband implementation project. They are requesting \$30,000.

VII. Public Comment – General

- a. None.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Motioned by Vince; Seconded by Bill @ 10:58 AM