

Minutes approved 07-20-16



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jury Commission Room – McKenzie Building
Wednesday, June 22, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Zimmerman, Monica Connett, Russ Crawford, Russ Crawford, Jim Donahue, Nick Graff, Brett Grimm, Mike Harris, Carroll Imig, Darrell Meisinger, Greg Sinn

Committee Members Absent: Tim Neuhauser, Terry Hillegonds

Others attending: Wendy Ferrill, County Administrator

MOTION **MOTION BY MEISINGER, SECOND BY CONNETT** to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016 meeting.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION
E-16-65 **MOTION BY GRAFF, SECOND BY CRAWFORD** to recommend to approve adding territory to the Southern Enterprise Zone.

Community Development Administrator, Kristal Deininger, advised the Committee that Pekin wants to add some territory and they need approval from all partners to do so. Deininger clarified that each zone has 15 square miles and there will still be room for future expansion.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION
E-16-63 **MOTION BY CONNETT, SECOND BY DONAHUE** to recommend to approve the appointment of Brad Siever to the Central Fire Protection District.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION
E-16-64 **MOTION BY CONNETT, SECOND BY DONAHUE** to recommend to approve the appointment of Ed Papis to the Emergency Telephone Systems Board.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairman Zimmerman opened the discussion on the Greater Peoria EDC

contract. There was \$100,000 budgeted for FY16. We have not paid anything yet for this year. A resolution was passed in March that needs clarification. The resolution calls for a vote quarterly to pay or not. He is asking the Committee for direction. He also advised that there will be an EDC presentation at the Board meeting this month.

Harris said he feels like he has not received any solid facts for the County. They touched all they do but he does not see results for the money paid. He said they report jobs created but not jobs lost. He feels he is in the dark.

Grimm said he understands promoting to attract and pointed out a company that an EDC entity took credit for but the company was moving anyway. He pointed out the GPEDC promotor does not live in the state. The big 4 counties who have their own EDC are also paying for this one and it just doesn't seem right. Initially the contract had pages of requirements for them to follow and report on. They didn't fulfill that and now the contract is only a few pages and the standards are no longer there. He said he is frustrated because he understands the need to promote Tazewell, but measuring the outcome is not easy. He stated he would like to see us contract out our own economic development employee and focus only on Tazewell instead of paying GPEDC.

Sinn stated this has been discussed before. We agreed to pay them quarterly and we need to honor that. There is some clarification that is needed as showing they met is not an exact science, however, we owe them at this time.

Imig clarified they recently brought on a rural representative and he was contacted to show her around the area.

Crawford stated the contracts have been this way for a while. He said each year they were passed with grumbling. He was involved with pulling together the contract language to show accountability. He suggested a committee to review to determine if they met expectations or not. He said he is concerned about the amount we pay. He is totally committed to being a regional partner but he believes that the big four municipalities are paying twice. He stated he would like to see a dedicated resource for economic development for Tazewell who could coordinate with all areas of the County.

Harris pointed out that small villages do not have the infrastructure for large economic development. Some areas have had large businesses brought in and it hurts existing business.

Donahue stated he lives in Pekin and it is dying quickly. This organization does nothing for the County and certainly nothing for Pekin. He said he

would not vote to give them a penny.

Graff asked the Committee to return to topic of quarterly payments and that we should pay what we owe at this time. Grimm wants to know they have fulfilled every portion of the contract or not pay. Chairman Zimmerman said they are required to give quarterly reports and they have done that.

Grimm said they are trying to bring in more businesses, but they are not attending to those already here. The last report indicated there were 3 – 5 visits made but no details. Harris asked who will review their work to see if they did their job. Chairman Zimmerman said he would have a copy of their contract and last report for all to use for the basis of their questions on Board night.

Chairman Zimmerman advised the Committee there will be an In-Place meeting on Board night to vote on paying the 1st and 2nd quarter. There will be future discussions to amend the contract.

The meeting was recessed at 4:41 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Beeney)