

Brooke County EDA Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2016 at 5:30pm
Brooke County Library

Attendance: John Casinelli-Chairman, George Kondik- Vice Chairman, Patty Welling-Treasurer, Honorable Stacey Wise, Honorable Tim Ennis, Ruby Greathouse, Jon Rogers, John DeStefano, Pat Sutherland, Amy Nickerson, Mike Paprocki., Shari Beckstrand, Jesse Riggle, Kyle Wales, Tonette Alward, David Klick, Chatman Neely, Norm Schwertfeger

~ John Casinelli opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Minutes from previous meeting- President Casinelli advised the Authority that the Secretary did not have the meeting minutes from the last meeting of October 7, 2015 with him tonight.

Communications- EDA received a Thank You card from Grace Davis, Windsor Heights Council Member for covering her lodging at the Community Leadership Academy in Morgantown at Lakeview.

Financial Report- Patty Welling read the treasurer's report for November 2015, December 2015, and January 2016. The current balance in the account reflects a total of \$26,269.03 as of January 27, 2016. Motion by John DeStefano and Second by Ruby Greathouse to approve Treasurers Report and passed.

- A. Treasurer Welling also provided a copy of the draft annual request to the Brooke County Commissioners. This report was tabled for a month giving the membership an opportunity to review the request.
- B. The Authority received a request to pay the annual dues of \$100 for membership with the WV Economic Development Council. John DeStefano motion to pay the dues, second by Patty Welling and passed.
- C. The Authority also paid for the food provided by DeFelice in Follansbee for the meeting.

AmeriCorp VISTA update- Kyle Wales, the AmeriCorp worker was present and gave a report on his work for the past few months. Kyle has been working with the Brooke County Assessor's office to catalog a few properties and post on the website. Kyle reported he is finishing up the interviews with the Brooke Museum Curator to identify the various areas in the museum and work toward placing the interviews on tape for self-guided tours. He applied for a Green Thumbs and healthy Joints grant to start a community garden in Wellsburg on land owned by the city and designated by FEMA as not developable due to flood zone. Kyle has met with the BDC to discuss options for creating a permanent space for the Farmer Market. Kyle reported the Brooke farmer market will have pancake breakfast on March 19 from 9am – 1pm.

Museum Update- Ruby reported on the Brooke County museum. She received a request from WVAM and the Top of WV for photos and information to help promote the activities. Ohio County is looking to develop a county museum similar to ours and has scheduled a visit to our

museum to see the layout, etc. She also reported that a number of county schools have taken an interest in the museum and have conducted visits,

Former Board of Education Building at Central Park- The building is available for rental space, please contact Shari for further information. Shari reported that she will begin to look at grants that will help control and correct the front step deterioration and possible facility accessibility. Norm reported on the possibility of an upcoming tour of two potential business opportunities for the community.

Update from Town of Bethany- The Honorable Mayor Sutherland was available and gave a report on the Disciples of Christ Archives coming to Bethany for storage and will serve to play a role in the ongoing development of Heritage Tourism efforts. Mayor Sutherland indicated a new President for the college has been announced and he is looking forward to continued Town/Gown cooperative efforts. A second generator will be installed in the community center and will be used in emergencies as a warming center during cold spell emergencies. Bison Inn is for sale and will remain open until sold. The Town has been working with Top of WV and WVU-Extension in collaborative efforts to promote regional Tourism efforts.

Update from Village of Beech Bottom- Report received from Councilman Greg Shepherd. Beech Bottom is actively working on the abandoned buildings clean-up program. Twelve properties have been identified in various stages of notice and disrepair. Four of the notices are taking steps to remediate the condition and take corrective action. They are in process of filing litigation against one of properties in Village and this could be a test to the ordinance passed by the village.

Update on the City of Follansbee- The City has a company utilizing pipe storage in the city. City Manager DeStefano also indicated there have been numerous efforts to try and identify an area that can be used as Rail-Trail to connect southward to Pioneer Trail and Northward to Weirton Panhandle Trail. There are still connectivity issues that are being explored. City Manager will make contact with a new industrial effort and we may be able to invite them to the meeting to hear a presentation on the new industry.

Update on The Barn With Inn at Highland Springs- Co-owner Chatman Neely was available to present an update on the new bed and breakfast located a mile off of Washington Pike (Route 27) along Route 88. The B&B has been operating at capacity various times during the year since opening. They are forming local partnerships with Family Roots Farm and other suppliers of food and specialty items. Chatman reported they recently purchased a historic house in Wellsburg and are in the process of restoring it to be used as an overflow for guests that could not get space at the bed and breakfast or needed/wanted a different lodging environment.

Development Updates:

- A. County Assessor Report- Tom Oughton was not present and no report given.

- B. BDC Northern Panhandle- Pat Ford was not present but sent his report in. The BDC has two new businesses in former Wheeling Corrugating Plant. In conjunction with Wellsburg URA, the BDC was awarded a WV Community Redevelopment Collaborative grant to evaluate the preservation of Former Brooke Glass for adaptive use. They are rasing the house across from Salvation Army and deeding lot over to Salvation Army. Barney's Bakery will have a ribbon cutting in their new \$1.6 million facility on Three Springs Drive. Still in negotiations with Pietro Fiorentini to site a \$10.5 million facility. They are planning a BAD Building Summit Two in the Spring. The Property Rescue Workshop has been rescheduled for March.
- C. BHJ Report- Mike Paprocki reported on progress with the South Brooke County Ohio River Bridge project. Work is proceeding with the bridge and it will be a design build project with additional funds needed to complete the project. The bid for the bridge should be let in July of 2016 with a completion date slated for 2020.
- D. County Commissioners- Commissioner Stacey Wise reported on the Dilapidated Building committee at the county level and they are making good progress and gaining valuable information about how to proceed with abandoned properties. Working on a Courthouse improvement grant. Stacey reported the need to establish a few ADA compliant restrooms in the courthouse.
- E. WVDO- Matt Borrer was not present and no report given.

Discuss previous project initiatives:

- A- Loan and Grant programs- Jon Rogers reported that he will work on securing a speaker to come to the next meeting and share information on the programs.
- B- County Spring Oil and gas Banquet- Commissioner Stacey Wise reported that she and the other County Commissioners will work on the program and the EDA requested the event be held in April.
- C- PITCH Contest- Norm discussed the project and David Klick indicated he will work on the committee and will contact Dr. Carrie White about assisting us with the program. Shari Beckstrand, Kyle Wales and Norm Schwertfeger also agreed to work on the planning committee. We discussed the possibility of holding the event in the Beckstrand property near Central Park in Wellsburg.

Patty Welling motion to adjourn, Second by Ruby Greathouse and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Schwertfeger Norm Schwertfeger, Secretary- BCEDA