



COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 28, 2016
Lanark City Hall
111-A South Broad Street
Lanark, IL

MINUTES

Attendance

Ed Juracek, Carroll County SWCD
Darrell Stitzel, Carroll County Board
John Huggins, Carroll County Area Rep.
Steve Rutz, Jo Daviess County Board
Bill Tonne, Jo Daviess County SWCD
Tim Deem, Lee County Board
Ron Colson, Ogle County Board
Marcia Heuer, Ogle County SWCD

Mike Reibel, Ogle County Area Rep.
Sam Newton, Stephenson County Board
John Espinoza, Whiteside County Board
Theresa Wittenauer, Executive Director
Dan Payette, Outreach Coordinator
Andy Shaw, GIS Specialist
Julie Jacobs, Office Manager

Call to Order

Ron Colson, President, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Introductions

There were no new introductions.

Minutes

Minutes to the January 25, 2016 Council Meeting were emailed out prior to the meeting and were also handed out. Tim Deem made a motion to approve the minutes as written. John Espinoza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finances

Julie Jacobs, Office Manager, in Glen Kuhlemier's absence presented the financial report. John Huggins made a motion to place the written financial report on file for audit. Ed Juracek seconded the motion. Motion carried. Julie stated that the CDs remain at Community State Bank. If the Council chooses to purchase the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation building the CDs can be used as collateral.

Unfinished Business (Progress Reports and Actions)

Executive Director's Report – Theresa Wittenauer's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Our contract with Lee County Industrial Development Association has been signed to work in coordination with the current E-zone administrator, John Thompson, to be trained on the daily and periodic work duties of the position. Mt Morris approved for us to update their Comprehensive Plan. Theresa gave the following update on the Freight Study project; Iowa is ready to move forward. We are waiting for Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to get it started. East Central Intergovernmental Association is looking at different options to fund IDOT portion for now. We do have some match money that we can get started. The group applied for Economic Development Administration funds for our work and that is waiting for IDOT. Theresa will talk to County Board Chairs tomorrow about it and to see if they can come up with some creative ways to fund Illinois' portion. Sam Newton recommended contacting the federal agency to get the money that is held up at the state.

Outreach Coordinator's Report – Dan Payette's report was handed out. Dan added to his report that other planning projects may be coming up. He also gave an update on iFiber. iFiber is in a five year invoice period but some libraries are under a three year contractor. iFiber is working on new pricing rates. It needs to be sustainable. iFiber is good with quality service. Some private sectors have tapped into iFiber to expand to homeowners. Dr. Tonne mentioned that Dan Payette is on the Illinois Fiber Venture Board.

GIS Mapping Specialist's Report – Andy Shaw's report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. He highlighted from his written report on the pending general assembly bill that may advance the zone certification. If the bill is enacted and our new zone is accepted, the activation of the new zone could be sooner than previously expected. Samples of maps that Andy had created were included in his report.

Office Manager's Report – Julie Jacobs' report was emailed/mailed out prior to the meeting. Julie added to her report that the next E-newsletter will be sent out this week.

New Business

Rock Falls Community Development Corporation Office Space – Theresa Wittenauer gave a background on how this potential transaction of purchasing the building came about. Staff will continue to get more details on the building and look at funding options. Staff will provide the pros/cons to the Council and will keep everyone informed of information they gain.

Election of Officers – Ron Colson's term as President is up according to our bylaws. Election of officer will take place at the May board meeting.

Signature Authority – This policy will be reviewed annually and approved once per year. The Council needs to authorize the Staff to sign on their behalf on any documents needed for **APPROVED** projects. The Staff cannot legally bind the Council in any form without their approval. This policy will allow the Staff to submit grants, complete reports, draw down funds and correspondence with local, state, and federal agencies, partners, and groups on behalf of the Regional Council. Dr. Tonne made a motion to approve the Signature Authority. Steve Rutz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Measure Proposals

Hands on Oregon – Theresa Wittenauer explained that this project is focused on preserving Conover Square by doing repair to the building and to make it energy efficient and attractive. The Hands on Oregon group is also seeking guidance in applying for Not-For-Profit status. Mike Reibel made a motion to approve as a new measure. John Huggins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting – The next meeting will be held on May 23, 2016.

Round Table Discussion

Sam Newton reported that the election is over and the Stephenson County Board will have new board members. It is looking more positive. The Stephenson County Board is changing fiscal year to January instead of November. The County is down to four applicants for County Administrator’s position.

Tim Deem spoke about the Great Lakes Basin Rail. A handout on the rail line was handed out. Public meetings are scheduled for in April. One will be held April 20 at the Rochelle High School. In Lee County it would take out about 330 acres of land. Tim reported that a new water tower is being erected in Rochelle which is actually a mile inside Lee County. Ron Colson gave accolades to Lee County for having the Enterprise Zone, all the counties are benefitting from it. Tim also reported that Lee County still does not have a county administrator.

Marcia Heuer stated that as a result of the election Ogle County Board will have four new board members but it won’t change dynamic of the board. They County will be getting a new Clerk and Highway Engineer. Curtis Cook, current Engineer, has resigned and his last day will be April 30, 2016.

Mike Reibel is trying to stay on top of the Great Lakes Basin Rail situation.

Darrell Stitzel stated that Carroll County Board will remain the same.

John Espinoza reported that Whiteside County is waiting on Springfield to get things moving. The County is waiting for money from the State to do projects. Construction season is starting. He also reported that Rock Falls will be getting a Dunkin Donuts and another Casey’s.

Steve Rutz reported that the said the East Dubuque Casey’s is really busy. Galena Tourism and the Jo Daviess County Tourism are now working together again. Steve also shared that Lisa McCarthy is doing a fantastic job as the Tri County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA) Executive Director. TCEDA is hosting small business meetings.

Dr. Tonne commented on his recent trip to a college in Erie, PA on how the library had no books everything was electronically.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.