

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE & TOURISM COMMITTEE

MONTHLY MEETING 06.14.2018-TOMAH CHAMBER AND VISITORS CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Nodji Van Wychen. Roll call was taken.

Present: Nodji Van Wychen, Dean Peterson, Tonya Townsell, Tina Thompson, Steve Peterson, Jim Bialecki, Lisa Hanson

Minutes: Motion by Tina Thompson to approve the minutes of the May 10th, 2018 meeting. Second by Dean Peterson. Motion carried.

Economic Development Committee Duties: Committee members will review the duties and bring forward to the next meeting any changes that need to be addressed.

Financial Report & Invoices: Steve Peterson

Alliant Energy has provided a Marketing Grant in the amount of \$2000.00 to put towards the Map & Tour project. A check will be cut out of the Marketing and Promotions line in the amount of \$2000.00 to Alliant and once the grant funding comes in, it will be deposited in the same account. Motion by Dean Peterson to approve the check being cut and second by Nodji Van Wychen. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report: Jim Bialecki

Finance department is starting the budgeting process for 2019. As of now we are a ½ million short before we even get started.

We are in the process of relocating the tenants at the Annex B Building, includes Sanitation, Zoning, Forestry, IT Department and UW Extension. The house next to the Administrative Center is for sale and we will be purchasing the house for the UW Extension to move into.

Human Services should be moving into the old Courthouse July 9th.

Sanitation and Zoning are looking at space with the Land Conservation office. They are either going to rent from the current property owners or purchasing the building if they are interested in selling. IT Department will be moving into the training room over at the Justice Center.

EDCT Coordinators Report: Steve Peterson

South Park is coming along. They were able to complete Phase 1 & 2 together. 3 Business have committed to moving in.

Gundersen broke ground and the hospital building is moving along.

Wilton will have a new Warehouse at United Coop-right next to the plant.

The water treatment project in Kendall is wrapping up. Graceland Fruit went in where Cran Grow used to be. Lois at Organic Valley passed away. Cashton has a child care center opening, they have room for 65 kids and they are already full. They are looking at opening another as it is needed in the community. Bank of Cashton finalized their blue prints and 3 businesses will be moving in with the bank. The Feed Mill is closed.

The Workforce Summit focused on how to hire Veterans, the disabled and ex-prisoners.

Bike Me Fun Ride was cancelled due to low turnout.

The Federal government is no longer going to be in charge of the HUD program. Each state did an audit and 80% of the funds are never being used. Department of Administration will be running the Revolving Loan Fund. They are restructuring it on the state level. People that have already borrowed money will not be impacted by the change. Discussion on how the new program will work. More information will follow as it is unclear how those funds will be appropriated to Counties.

Connect Communities: Need 100 per village in order to be a member. Hard to get the villages and townships involved.

Steve is now part of the WEDA Committee Board.

5 Minute Reports:

Hidden Valley: July meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of the month in Monroe County-Warrens.

ITBEC: The meeting last month was at the Lunda Center in Black River Falls-they were able to tour the new facility. Discussion about having a booth at the WCA to do some recruiting. Send out some invitations. There is no meeting in July. Branches Winery –Vernon County-August, Warrens-October, November-March-Sparta American Legion.

Local History Room: The A-Z Exhibit will be opening. Special tour before the County Board Meeting.

Fort McCoy: Chicago Tribune did an article on the Pine View campground, summarizing the campground and facilities it offers to the public. The public can tour the base, 2 Fridays a month and Saturday from 9-3. Armed Forces Day had a good attendance, figure 4000+ attended. August meeting will be at the campground. Discover Wisconsin will be filming and PBS will be airing the footage next month.

Sparta Chamber: N/A

Tomah Chamber: July 25th Business after 5 meeting will be at the fair. Sponsors are secured. July 20th Golf Outing-Superhero theme. Sheriff forum in August. Workforce study on Tomah-10th fastest growing in the State.

7 Rivers: September 19th Cranberry County Event.

Around the County: Discussion on having a booth at the Wisconsin Counties Association event in La Crosse. They would need someone to man the booth and if we are going to participate we need to get the fee paid. Dean made a motion to pay the entry fee, Nodji second. Motion carried.

Nodji talked about the upcoming Warrens Sesquicentennial on July 3rd & 4th. On the 3rd...Dance, food and fireworks. 4th....Ho Chunk dancers, Lumberjack Shows, Pie Eating Contest, Kid's games, Historic picture and equipment displays and Carriage rides.

Next meeting: July 12th @ 9:00 am in Warrens, TBD

Motion to adjourn by Dean Peterson, 2nd by Tina Thompson. Approved Meeting adjourned at 2:44pm.