

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE & TOURISM COMMITTEE

MONTHLY MEETING-9-13-18 CASHTON TOWN HALL

Present: Nodji Van Wychen, Mark Halverson, Dennis Berg, Tonya Townsell, Steve Peterson, Jim Bialecki

The meeting was posted in accordance with the open meeting law. Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Nodji Van Wychen. Roll call was taken.

Minutes-Motion by M Halverson, second by D Berg.

Financial/Invoices-Hidden Valley magazine-Jim informed that was already in the process for payment. The amount is \$2805.00. An invoice was presented for the Sparta Wine Walk Sponsorship in the amount of \$100. It was submitted to Lisa Hanson for payment.

Land Use Planner/ED Coordinator-Jim sent out information to all the members on what the Land Use Planner position would be doing in that role. Steve handed out a summary of what he had done since starting that position. Discussion on who would people contact for business startup-the City or Steve. Currently there is no planner in Tomah or in the villages. When the committee first started it only involved tourism. The Economic Development Coordinator was started when Cathy Schmit took office as Administrator and was developed to give some representation to outlying areas in the County. The Land Use Planner could assist with the Comprehensive Plans for townships and villages, instead of spending money to resource out for this. LUP can write and obtain grants and assist with planning the next 25 years with development in the County. It would be beneficial for the County to have both positions that would depend on the budget.

Committee Member Replacement-Citizen members Mary Jo Hill and Dennis Berg are staying on. Kevin Ravenscroft from the Bank of Tomah is interested in the position to replace Pete Reichardt. The committee's recommendation needs to go to County Board for approval. The committee is requesting members to talk to people about sitting on the committee as an Advisory member. Which would replace Paul Harms.

Solutions to Workforce Summit-One day event for Recruitment and Retention. The committee is made up of Chamber directors, clergy and schools. The summit focuses on hiring people with disabilities, helping ex-cons get back in the work force, minority population, working with Veterans for jobs and housing and dealing with more flexible work schedules. Full day of learning.

Steve requested sponsoring 600.00 for the Keynote speaker to show our support for the event. The summit had received a 1000.00 grant from ITBEC for the keynote speaker. Motion by M Halverson to approve and second by D Berg. Invoice will be sent to Lisa Hanson for payment.

Monroe County Economic Development Conference 2019-Discussion if Steve Peterson was not the EDC for Monroe County any longer what would happen with the conference. The committee agreed that Steve should move forward in the process of the conference as it is more of a Top Dog Marketing event.

Monroe County EDCT Booth-They were sold out-no booth this year.

Administrator Report-Budget is in full swing along with Union negotiations.

EDCT Report-Steve will be attending a business meeting in Viroqua at 9 am Monday. Post disaster discussion on how to get businesses back up and running after all the flooding.

5 Minute Reports:

7 River Alliance-September 19th Apprentice/Internship workshop in Tomah at the Cranberry County Lodge.

Hidden Valley-Looking to have one committee member attend their meetings once a month to report back. They are held the third Wednesday of each month. They would receive a per diem for mileage when they attend.

ITBEC-Gave a 1000.00 grant to Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center for advertising. Public harvest day for next year.

Local History Room-The A to Z Exhibit is still up and going good. Jarrod is working on the Christmas Exhibit and has offered to host the December meeting.

Fort McCoy-Community Appreciation was under attended due to flooding in the area. December starts cold weather training and January starts Cold steel (big guns). Helped out with the area flooding using their Mutual Aid Agreements. Utilized boats, trucks and helicopter. Lots of interest in groups coming to train at Ft. McCoy.

Upcoming Events/Activities around the County

Vinofest-Water problems all weekend with all the rain. Did receive great feedback about the event. Left over cheese curds, ice and water bottles donated to the community effected by the flood. City of Tomah will be hosting the event next year.

Cranfest-Last weekend in September. Offering a new feature-creating an area for a photo opportunity, you can rent waders for the pictures.

Harvest Day Celebration is the following weekend at the Discovery Center in Warrens. St Matthews is having an all-day craft sale.

Next meeting will be in Warrens at the Cranberry Festival.

Motion to adjourn at 11:20 am by D Berg and second by N Van Wychen