**Minutes**

*The mission of the Mount Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board is to improve the quality of life and create a shared prosperity in our community by retaining, sustaining, and enhancing existing businesses and community organizations, attracting, and developing new businesses and improving and upgrading infrastructure.*

**Date: 12/7/2022**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Location: 124 S Washington St, Mt Pulaski IL 62548**

**Meeting Type: Business**

1. Call to Order: Andy called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM on December 7, 2022
2. Roll Call: Present were Andrew Meister, Erin Wyss, Tracy Pulliam, Shea Campanella, and administrator Deanna Howard. Doug Arrived at 6:15 PM. Corey Leonard was absent,
3. Introduction of guests: Tom Martin and Cindy Jackson with Farmfed Co-op as well as the Market on the Hill board members. Kim Martin will be speaking for them.
4. Approval of Consent Agenda-payments and minutes: Erin motioned to approve the minutes and payments and Doug seconded the motion.
5. Treasure’s report Deanna presented the treasurer’s report.
6. CD Update: The CD will be expiring in December. Andy motioned to not renew the CD at Longview Bank. Erin seconded the motion. Roll call vote-Andy-Aye, Tracy-Aye, Doug-Aye, Erin-Aye, Shea-Aye, Corey was absent.
7. Old Business
   1. Project Updates
      1. Farm Fed-Tom discussed the obstacles they have faced with the changing economy. Local specialty growers are closing due to lack of qualified personnel and getting burned out with the challenges they face. Laws have changed and the commercial kitchen is no longer a need for the community. Cindy gave the presentation that was given at the annual stockholders meeting. And discussed what the LLFP grant has been used for.

She talked about either forming or partnering with a nonprofit with 501c3 status. The need for a local nonprofit was discussed and Tom, Cindy and Deanna will work together to see how this can be accomplished.

* + 1. Town Square Revitalization: Still no contact. Deanna will pull all documents together and work with the city to bring this project back to life. She has talked to Bill Glaze with Longview bank and he does not feel they will commit the funds that Farmer’s Bank had committed to rebuild the sidewalks around their corner.
    2. After School Program: no update
    3. Market on the Hill: Kim presented a report showing the history of EDPB’s support and where those funds have been used. She reported the net operating income for 2022 and average monthly overhead. Consultant Marilyn Greaves with SCORE: Peoria Mentor is free and they do have a new board member. She presented a plan to hire a paid administrator for the board and requested a grant to pay this salary. She also requested a preapproved emergency fund that they could have for a back up plan in case they could not cover monthly overhead. Erin asked for the breakdown of the payroll hours. The GM is at 40 hours a week and they have 2 part time people at 20 hours a week and Kim was unsure of Diane’s hours. Shea asked if they had considered and internship program and advised the MOTH board members of the benefits. The board and Kim discussed prices on items in the store and how to adjust them to make the store more beneficial to the community. Deanna asked for a list of products to start a market analysis and Cindy Jackson with Farmfed offered to connect the MOTH board with some contacts that she thinks could help the board.  
       The EDPB members returned to this item after the guest presentations. They discussed the challenges the market is facing. They understand that there isn’t any way for MOTH to cut expenses and the biggest challenge is getting customers in the store. The board discussed the request for emergency funds and the salary for a board administrator. Deanna suggested that instead of paying for the administrator the EDPB donate her time to assist the Market. The members tabled the discussion with hopes that EDPB and MOTH board could get together and find solutions to use funds to increase business.
    4. Frazier Park no update
    5. Road Signs no update-Dee to check with Matt Presswood on this matter.
    6. Spear’s Storage no update.
  1. Statement of Interest: Doug and Shea both turned their statement of interest into Deanna. She will give them to Anna to file.
  2. OMAR Training: Board members are in the process.

1. New Business: none
2. Other Business/Non-Agenda items: Doug brought up a funding request from the Humane Society of Logan County.
3. Executive Session
4. Next Meeting 1/4/2023 6:00 pm
5. Adjournment: Tracy motioned to adjourn; Doug seconded the motion. All present voted Aye and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.