**Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board**

*The mission of the Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board is to improve the quality of life and create a share 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: May 16th, 2020**

**Meeting Location: 391 1600th Street, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548**

**Meeting Type: Special Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes (recreated by Deanna Howard for website)**

1. **Call to order**

Tom Martin Called to order the special meeting of the Mt. Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board at 9:00am on May 16th, 2020 at the Martin Agricultural Shop.

1. **Roll Call**

Lorah Hoe conducted roll call. The following persons were present: Tom Martin, Deron Powell, Erin Wyss, Andrew Meister, Jim Birge and Tyler White. Lorah Hoe (Administrative Aide).

Guests: None

Absent: Hillary Cherry ad Matt Bobell (city council representative).

1. **Introduction of Gests**

None

1. **Approval of April 15th Minutes**

Tabled until next meeting

1. **Review of COVID-19 Relief Grant Applications**
   1. Countryside Rentals is asking for $2,446.67. The board discussed if it would be possible for Gene to suspend his insurance payment because his vehicle is not being used at this time. The board also discussed how the application stated that Gene has not been able to conduct business since March and may not be able to get much business until the pandemic has pass. **Jim Birge made a motion to approve $2,500.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 Relief, 2nd by Deron Powell. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**
   2. Bobbie Taylor did not specify the amount that she wanted. The board discussed her application specifically having her credit cards, mortgage payment, and the payment reimbursement for 1 week pay. **Andrew Meister made a motion to approve $2,500.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 relief, 2nd by Tyler White. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**
   3. Salt Creek Attic was asking for $5,000.00. The board discussed how this business is uniquely effected by COVID-19 because it is an industry greatly effected by style trends. The grant is not meant to cover all of the loss of income that a business may experience during this time, but it is meant to help businesses cover the bills so that they may remain open. **Jim Birge made a motion to approve $2,000.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 relief, 2nd by Erin Wyss. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**
   4. Moochelle’s Kid Kare was asking for $3,000.00. The board discussed how one daycare compared to the other and how they were both affected by COVID-19. Michelle’s daycare did operate at a larger capacity than Bobbie’s before the pandemic hit. **Andrew Meister made a motion to approve $3,000.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 relief, 2nd by Deron Powell. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**
   5. The Old Brickyard did not specify the amount that he wanted. The board discussed how David is actively applying for other aid to keep his business open. The board discussed how this meets the grants’ goal of acting as a temporary aid to help businesses until other avenues of aid came through. **Jim Birge made a motion to approve $5,000.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 relief, 2nd by Tyler White. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Abstain, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**
   6. The Lucky Larger was asking for $2,500.00. The board discussed how business for the Lucky Larger has ebbed and flowed since reopening. During this time it is hard to estimate how business will be for any given week. **Andrew Meister made a motion to approve $2,500.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 relief, 2nd by Jim Birge. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Abstain, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion** passes.
   7. Sue’s Salon was asking for $2,700.00. The board discussed how her business is not applicable to types other types of aid. The board also discussed how the first round of COVID-19 Relief Grants Sue was very conservative in how much she was asking for. There is not telling how long this will go on and this is all the help that Sue can get right now. **Erin Wyss made a motion to approve $2,500.00 from the community fund for emergency COVID-19 relief, 2nd by Jim Birge. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**

The board discussed the need to evaluate how long the COVID-19 relief grants can go on for. At the end of the two months the board will evaluate the grant program before deciding whether to continue it or not. Either way, the EDPB will have to let the community know that this can not go on forever because our funds will have limits.

1. **Budget 2020/2021**

Please see attachment for the proposed budget for FY2020/2021. **Deron Powell made a motion to approve Community Donation Fund Budget and Business District Sales Tax Bedget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Seconded by Jim Birge. Roll Call Vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Tyler White-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, and Hillary Cherry-Absent. Motion passes.**

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Doug Johnson is ready to commit to buy the Johnson’s Food Center. The EDPB has committed $45,000.00 to his project. Doug needs to turn in an itemized list or a budget for what these funds will go towards.

CEDS application: we finished top 10. We are in the top 5. Presentation will be in July.

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity-Fast Track grant is something that we are eligible to apply to for our Town Square Revitalization Project. The grant is $500,000.00 minimum and $5 Million maximum. Farnsworth can write the grant application for the Town Square Revitalization Project. Much of the information used in the CEDS application can be applied to this Fast Track application as well. **Motion made by Jim Birge to allocate up to $5,000.00 to Farnsworth for grant writing to be half allocated from the Business District Tax Fund and half allocated from the Community Donation Fund. Seconded by Deron Powell. Lorah Hoe conducted a roll call vote: Jim Birge-Yea, Tom Martin-Yea, Andrew Meister-Yea, Deron Powell-Yea, Erin Wyss-Yea, Hillary Cherry-Absent, and Tyler White Absent.**

**Market On The Hill Discussion**

The board discussed the grant to subsidize fresh produce for Market On The Hill. The board felt that a grant is not appropriate for this request. A contribution would be more appropriate to help this business. The money from the contribution would go back into the pockets of the buyers as well as encourage buying form local producers. The contribution does not go into the pockets of the owners because dividends are not paid until after the business is profitable which may not be until 6 months later.

The board discussed if this was conflict of interest. If all EDPB members who were MOTH shareholders did not vote than there wouldn’t be enough for a quorum. If the EDPB couldn’t help than maybe ALMH could help with the foundation’s support. This project promotes healthy eating, fresh food, and local food. The board agreed that this should not be a grant. This would be a contribution to a new business for subsidizing foods. A grant could be fore marketing. This will be discussed at the next meeting with Hillary present. Jim will not be present at the June6th meeting, but will be able to call in.

**Adjournment**

**Tyler White made a motion to adjourn at 9:58 am, seconded by Erin Wyss, all in favor and motion passed.**