The mission of the Mount Pulaski Economic Development and Planning Board is to improve the quality of life and create 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.

Minutes

Date: July 8, 2026
Time: 6:15 pm
Location: Longview Community Center, 124 S Washington St, Mt Pulaski, IL 62548

1) Call to Order: Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm
2) Roll Call: Present were Andrew Meister, Tracy Pulliam, Erin Wyss, Doug Johnson, Tiffany Justice, and administrator Deanna Howard. Corey Leonard was absent, and Benjamin Butler arrived at 6:38 pm.
3) Introduction of guests: Amanda Scattergood and Bishop Patel
4) Approval of Consent Agenda, including payments and minutes: There were no payments to be approved. **Tracy motioned to approve the minutes, and Tiffany seconded the motion. All members voted "aye".**
5) Treasurer's Report: Deanna presented the treasurer's report along with the open grants report.
6) Old Business:
   a) Don Maxheimer's amended application: Deanna requested that Don provide a written bid. He was unable to provide it for this meeting. This item will be carried over to the next agenda.
   b) Market on the Hill: Amanda presented an application to replace the deli cooler, which is a vital part of the market's income. Amanda quoted sales numbers showing the loss of business due to the deli not operating.
   Doug motioned that we make a contribution of $1,500 to the Market from our current budget line item 02-501 to purchase the deli cooler. Tiffany seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Andy-aye, Tracy-aye, Erin-aye, Doug-aye, Tiffany-aye. Motion carried.
7) New Business:
   a) Heart of the Hill-Food Programs: Amanda applied for funds to assist with the children's summer food program. This program provides easy prepared meals and snacks for children in the community as a replacement for meals they would have received during school hours. The average cost is $1000 per week.
   Andy is in favor of the program but would like greater transparency so that, if he were

questioned about his vote, he would have answers. He would like to know what was spent over the last 5 years, where those funds came from, and how many recipients received the food bags. Amanda explained that the number of food bags given to each family is determined by the number of children in the family. The budget is for 29 families, including 71 children, at about $14.08 per child each week. Heart of the Hill, NFP is taking over this program that was previously managed by volunteers from Zion Lutheran Church.

Tracy motioned that we approve a donation to the Heart of the Hill for $4,000 to supplement the Kids' Summer Food Program out of budget line 02-401 with the expectation that we will be provided with more information regarding the program and how it will move forward. Ben seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Andy-aye, Tracy-aye, Erin-aye, Doug-aye, Ben-aye, Tiffany-aye. Motion carried.

b) Heart of the Hill-HVAC: Amanda provided a second estimate for this application for HVAC in the building that houses Heart of the Hill, NFP, owned by Zion Lutheran Church. The church is not currently charging the NFP rent or utilities for this location but most likely will in the future. Andy explained that this does not check many of the boxes on the application and that he feels that the building owner (Zion Lutheran Church) should be the applicant. The board tabled this discussion to carry forward to the next meeting.

c) Logan County EDP: Bill Thomas submitted a request for $5000 to support their efforts to assist communities with Economic Development. **Erin motioned that we approve our $5,000 donation from budget line 02-400, and Tracy seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Andy-aye, Tracy-aye, Erin-aye, Doug-aye, Ben-aye, Tiffany-aye. Motion carried.**

d) D'Tails Dog Grooming: The estimated cost of the project is $9550 and that is the requested amount. The only estimate included is from a known business, and her explanation for only one estimate was considered acceptable by the board. Doug is in favor of supporting this but not for the full amount.

Doug motioned that we make a recommendation that we use the Business District Funds in the amount of 50% for a maximum of $4750. Tiffany seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Andy-aye, Tracy-aye, Erin-aye, Doug-aye, Ben-aye, Tiffany-aye. Motion carried. This will come from budget item 01-802.

e) Guruji 62, LLC: Bishop Patel was present to speak on behalf of the remodeling project, including changing the station to a Phillips 66 station. Bishop is communicating with the mayor for TIF money to help with the entrance from Vine Street. He explained the benefits of partnering with Phillips 66, including bringing a biodiesel option to the community that is currently tax-free in the state of IL. Phillips 66 will provide signage and offer a rebate program to the business. This project will replace the fuel tanks, protecting the community from possible ground contamination from leaking from old tanks. The building will be completely refaced, improving the appearance of the property, which is the main focal point arriving from the north.

The application only included one estimate, but Bishop explained his relationship with the contractor, and the board feels that this is sufficient to accept the application with the provided estimate.

The board discussed how the funds could be pulled from the budgets for this project. Andrew would like to table this and carry it forward to the next board meeting.

f) FarmFed 2nd Quarter Newsletter: Deanna provided the letter for the board to read.

g) Longview Community Bank CD: The CD will mature in August. This will be carried over to the next agenda: Deanna did not receive the new rate in time for this meeting. Discussion is tabled.
h) MPAA Sponsorship: Deanna printed the sponsorship program for the board's review. No action was taken on this item.

8) Other Business/Non-Agenda Items: Andy had a conversation with Rick from the Market on the Hill board regarding the financial situation and some staffing issues. It does not look promising that the Market will make it until September.
   The board also discussed having checks and balances for donations given to prevent misuse of funds. Every business, organization, and NFP should have a bookkeeping system that could provide reports of funds received and spent. Andy feels that since the windfarm voluntarily donates to this community, this board needs to have a little bit more direction going forward. This wasn't intended to be a maintenance to keep these businesses alive. If the Market closes, the EDPB needs to figure out what direction they need to go to accomplish the goals set by the board.
   Rick also informed Andy that there are talks with a local business to open a daycare.
   Doug presented an EDDM card that he received from Monticello for an example of what EDPB could send out.
9) Executive Session: None
10) Next Meeting: Aug 12, 2026, 6:15 PM
11) Adjournment: Tracy motioned to adjourn at 8:07 pm and Doug seconded the motion. All present voted aye, and the meeting adjourned.