

Warren County Economic Development Committee (WCEDC)

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2016

Freeholder Sarnoski called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Scott Anderson, Eve Azar, Mitchell Jones, Andrea Kirchuk, John Kruk, Chris Maier, Stan Prater, Herman Shoemaker, Linda Stettler, and Freeholder Director Jason Sarnoski

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood and recited the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Kirchuk made a motion, seconded Mr. Maier, to approve the March 10, 2016 minutes. All in favor.

Committee Reports:

Tourism, Mr. Art Charlton:

- Newsletter - Mr. Charlton reported that there have been some technical issues. He needs to consult with Ms. Kirchuk.
- Copies of the insert “Wonders of Warren County” were distributed. All were impressed with the publication, particularly the map.
- National Geographic Project – the website launch will be May 19, 2016.

Old Business:

Update from the County, Freeholder Sarnoski:

- Freeholders approved funds for Route 31/Clinton shuttle.
- Working with Health Department to ease septic regulations and inspections. Meeting with realtors, engineers and contractors on April 20 at 7 PM. Mr. Kruk stated that projects and sales are held up because of septic processes. Mr. Kruk will report back to EDC at May meeting.
- Meeting about Highlands review and septic density rule on April 21.

- 60 attendees at the Meet the Mayors event at Hawk Pointe on March 31.
- Mr. Kruk stated he was on an HGTV Network show featuring Warren and Sussex County farms that were on the market. A suggestion was made to contact TV show scouts for documentary or reality type shows in Warren County. Perhaps a Filming/Documentary link could be added to the County website with Mr. Carlton as the contact.
- Two candidates, one more traditional and one a corporate company, were interviewed for the Economic Development Director position by the Interview Committee. Freeholder Sarnoski stated that the committee is recommending the corporate company, Tetra Tech, since the Committee felt they were most suited for the County's needs. There was concern about whether a template would be used instead of an individualized approach. Freeholder Sarnoski stated they did a good job with the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan in the past, and they understand the constraints of Warren County. After the one year contract, we would assess whether we should go back to the traditional type.
Mr. Maier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kirchuk, to ask the Freeholders to retain Tetra Tech based upon the recommendation of the Interview Committee. All in favor.
- Mr. Carlton was commended on a job well done on the Warren County Wanderings.

Open Comments from the Public:

Public attendees present: Elizabeth Griggs, Jay Cronce, Dawn Smith, Brenda Sweeney, and Sarah Brelvi

Ms. Smith stated that she was appointed to the Mansfield EDAC and would be happy to assist with conducting a SWOT analysis or become a member for a subcommittee to work with the Economic Development Director group. Freeholder Sarnoski states that he is happy that municipalities are getting on board.

Ms. Sweeney stated there was a stakeholder meeting in Oxford on April 26 at 6 PM to come up with a plan to help Oxford with their

Economic Development Grant.

Close Comments from the Public

New Business:

Freeholder Sarnoski stated that a subcommittee on public policy may be brought in under the EDC.

Mr. Kruk reported that international developers bought a \$2.95 million property to set up a private school in White Township. Also, Foodtown has expressed interest in the former A&P in Belvidere.

Next Meeting:

May 12, 2016 at 8:00 AM.

Adjournment:

Mr. Maier, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 AM.