

**Minutes of the September 22, 2009
Executive Board Meeting of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chester Mathena called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Paul Lake performed roll call, seven members were present. Also in attendance was Lisa Gehlhausen of the Commission's staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

The Minutes of the August 25, 2009 Executive Board Meeting were presented by Chair Mathena for approval. Ms. Gehlhausen stated a board member made a suggestion to amend the minutes with two minor changes as follows: 1) Under the **Treasurer's Report**, last sentence to read: Larry Wehr *made* a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Patricia Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion carried. 2) Under Transportation Enhancement. Ms. Gehlhausen stated Michael Cummings and herself developed a \$439,920 grant application for the Town of Ferdinand for walking/bicycling paths ~~at~~ adjacent to 18th Street Park. With the corrections as noted, Mary Gogel made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Norman Dillon. Motion carried.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise reported that as of September 22, 2009, the closing cash balance was \$229,736.05 which includes the \$50,000.00 in CDs. The outstanding aging schedule reflects \$56,785.37. With no further questions or discussion, Larry Wehr a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Alan Cassidy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Mathena then turned the meeting over to Ms. Gehlhausen for the Director's Report. Ms. Gehlhausen briefly reported the following:

Transportation Enhancement. Ms. Gehlhausen stated a Transportation Enhancement Grant application was submitted to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for the Town of Ferdinand. INDOT staff visited the Dale subdistrict office to conduct an interview with Ferdinand on the proposed application. The Town Council, Library Board, Community Center, School, YMCA, Park Department, Engineer, and many others came to promote the project. INDOT made a comment that this was the best presented interview that they have witnessed. The town was applauded for bringing so many people and having so much interest in the project. INDOT seemed pleased. Lisa stated The collaboration between the town, contractual library board, the community center, YMCA, and the school was evident at the interview. Award announcements are to be made in early November.

Community Focus Funds (CFF) Applications. Ms. Gehlhausen stated Nathan Held and herself prepared four CFF applications for the following community development projects: Dale stormwater improvements seeking a grant of \$600,000, Rockport stormwater improvements also seeking \$600,000, Cannelton stormwater improvements requesting a \$254,700 grant and for the construction of a library for the community of Dubois seeking \$500,000. These projects were submitted on October 2. Announcements will be made on or about November 20.

New Employee. Ms. Gehlhausen stated Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission hired a new employee, Adam Goepfner. Adam has a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs from IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Adam's first day of employment began September 16. He quickly assisted in checking payrolls for Davis-Bacon wage rate compliance. He has picked up the information very quickly and he assisted on employee interviews on the EDA Santa Claus water project.

TIGER Grant. Ms. Gehlhausen recalled to the board of the new program called, "TIGER" grant through the US Department of Transportation for projects that range from \$20 to \$300 million. Ms. Gehlhausen stated a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant was submitted on behalf of the Perry County Port Authority requesting \$21 million. Ms. Gehlhausen showed the board project maps and described the project. The project consists of rail line and bridge improvements to Hoosier Southern Railroad through Perry and Spencer Counties. The Port Authority was awarded a \$2 million grant from Economic Development Administration (EDA) to improve three bridges and rail track upgrades to allow weights of 286 tons. Ms. Gehlhausen said the TIGER grant if funded would allow three more bridges to be improved and further upgrades to the rail tracks. Proposed improvements also included ramp

improvements to Tell City River Port to assist with barges loading and unloading, improving River Road, construction of a spur in the Santa Claus Industrial Park, placement of dolphin cells in the river, reconstruct an historic bridge for a walking/bicycling trail, greenway trail, trailhead parking and also refurbishing the existing rail to the Cannelton Tie Yards and a Warehouse. The award announcements are expected to be made in February 2010.

Ms. Gehlhausen stated other projects were submitted to the US Department of Transportation within the region for TIGER grants as well.

With no questions, a motion was made by Treasurer Schulthise to approve the Director's Report and seconded by Mary Gogel. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Contracts for Approval:

- Crawford County EDA Revolving Loan Fund; Fee Schedule, estimated at \$4,300.00
- Crawford County USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant; Fee Schedule, estimated at \$1,300.00
- Rockport Stormwater Improvements (DR2-09-022); Sum of \$38,000.00

After discussing the above contracts, and with no further questions or comments, a motion to approve all three contracts as a group and approve the contracts was made by Treasurer Schulthise and seconded by Mary Gogel. Motion carried.

Resolution for Approval:

- Chair Mathena read Resolution 2009-13 stating approval to enter Mr. Adam J. Goepfner as the Project Assistant on the Commission's payroll on a full-time basis with an annual salary of \$30,000.00. With no further questions, a motion was made by Larry Wehr to approve **Resolution 2009-13** and seconded by Alan Cassidy. Motion carried.

Agreement for Approval:

- Chair Mathena read a Noncompete agreement between Mr. Adam Goepfner which is to protect the Commission should an employee, who goes through CDBG training and then leaves employment, would not be allowed to seek or compete for CDBG funds. Ms. Gehlhausen stated the agreement is for a period of at least two years from the effective date of employment and also within five years of leaving employment to not seek or compete for CDBG funds within the Commission's six county district doing grant writing. Ms. Gehlhausen stated Adam has agreed and signed the agreement. With no questions or comments, Treasurer Schulthise made the motion to approve the **Employee Noncompete Agreement** and seconded by Larry Wehr. Motion carried.

Before adjourning,

Ms. Gehlhausen stated she received a draft of the new proposed funding for next year with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. \$348 million will be available geared towards water, sewer and stormwater improvements and dams and levees. Downtowns, fire stations, and fire trucks have been awarded in September therefore they will not be eligible for these new funds. Training is expected t in 30-60 days and the details of the program will be presented. Ms. Gehlhausen stated it appears that the program will be very similar to the Disaster Recovery 2 used previously, which is a good thing. There will be one public hearing instead of two and hopefully little to no match for the communities.

Ms. Gehlhausen stated yesterday on September 21, Mr. Suresh Shaw and Ms. Pat Overall with the Economic Development Administration from Chicago were here at the office to do a Peer Review Evaluation on Indiana 15. EDA performs a peer review every three years to determine how things are going, and if they should award us a continuation of our planning grant. We provided them with our audit, our executive and full board meetings, attendance records, quorum data and board member names. EDA may call some of the Board members for your opinions. Indiana 15 had a two hour interview, which in my opinion went very well. They are very pleased with how things are going. We should receive a

report before the end of this year regarding our evaluation. Mr. Shaw then visited with Huntingburg officials on their EDA wastewater project, met with the Perry County Port Authority on their rail and bridge project and also met with Santa Claus on their water project. We made a lot of progress yesterday on those three projects.

ADJOURN

Before adjournment, Chair Mathena stated to the board that the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Board will be October 27 at 6:30 p.m. Full Board meeting to immediately follow at 7:30 p.m. The 2010 budget will be formally adopted at that meeting. It will be a very important meeting and hopes to see as many people as possible. There being no further business to come before the Executive Board, a motion was made by Larry Wehr and seconded by Norman Dillon to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Lake, Secretary

PAL/sk