

**Minutes of the October 22, 2019
Full Board Meeting of the
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Al Logsdon welcomed the Full Board members and called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Paul Lorey performed roll call; twenty-four members were present. Lisa Gehlhausen, Cheri Taylor and Nathan Held of the Commission and Craig McGowan with United States Department of Agriculture were also in attendance. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Chair Al Logsdon presented the minutes from the Full Board meeting held August 27, 2019. Mike Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes, Don Wertman seconded the motion and motion carried.

AGENDA: ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chair Al Logsdon called for additional agenda items. Ms. Gehlhausen asked that Craig McGowan with USDA be added to discuss available disaster funds. Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the additional agenda item. Carl Anderson seconded and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beverly Schulthise gave the Treasurer's Report. As of October 14th receipts were \$38,700.00 and disbursements were \$16,640.22. The actual total cash balance is \$810,437.36. The total aging schedule was \$5,950.00. The Commission has one 18-month CD totaling \$9,796.50, one 24-month CD totaling \$250,000.00, one 21-month CD totaling \$250,000.00 and two 24-month CDs totaling \$50,000 for a total investment of \$609,796.50. The restricted savings has a balance of \$6,597.44.

Paul Lorey made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented pending audit, Carl Anderson seconded and motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chair Al Logsdon called for the Director's Report from Executive Director Lisa Gehlhausen. Ms. Gehlhausen reported on projects as follows:

- The project status reports have been updated and were distributed to the Board.
- Four Community Development Block Grant applications are due to OCRA by November 22nd - Milltown wastewater improvements, Birdseye Fire Station, Patoka Water improvements and Petersburg Water improvements.
- Nathan Held, Jenny Matheis and Lisa Gehlhausen have been working on the CDBG applications coming due, Lindsey Hoffman has been working on the annual newsletter that will be mailed soon and Cheri Taylor has been finalizing the budget and working on the Pike County Park Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

None presented.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Budget discussion – An updated 2020 proposed budget was presented for discussion. The updated budget includes minimal raises for staff and the Technical Services Specialist position is included starting June 1st. The Board discussed the updated items.

Resolutions for Approval:

- The Executive Board recommended adoption of the 2020 Budget (Resolution 2019-19). Secretary Paul Lorey performed the roll call vote that resulted in 24 yay. Motion carried.
- The Executive Board recommended adoption of the adjustment in salaries of staff (Resolution 2019-20) – Carl Anderson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-20, Tom Hauser seconded and motion carried.

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- The Executive Board recommended adoption of the establishing schedule of fees (Resolution 2019-21) – Mike Johannes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-21, Mike Ellis seconded and motion carried.

Other:

Ms. Gehlhausen brought a request before the Board to approve the purchase of seven new workstations with Windows 10 and Microsoft Office 2019, three monitors and 16 hours of labor. The current workstations are running Windows 7 which is not supported after December 31, 2019. This purchase is in the EDA budget. The total cost is \$13,804 with EDA paying \$10,278. The Indiana 15 cost will be approximately \$3,526. Bill Byrd made a motion to approve this purchase, Mike Ellis seconded and motion carried.

Chair Al Logsdon had to leave the meeting at this point; Vice-Chair Tara Damin took over the meeting.

Speaker

Ms. Gehlhausen introduced Craig McGowan with USDA to discuss a disaster funding opportunity.

At the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2019), a disaster recovery act of 2019 was passed. This action set aside some additional money for counties that were federally declared disaster areas. Indiana had 22 counties declared as disaster areas, three are in the Indiana 15 region – Crawford, Perry and Spencer.

USDA has a community facilities grant program that is needs based. The disaster recovery act added additional funds to this program that the 22 designated counties are eligible for. Communities must show a financial need – cannot have money available or the ability to receive a loan for the project. We have done a lot of police cars with these funds. The program is for equipment, not bricks and mortar projects. This program is for quick turn-around items that have a big impact such as desks, chairs, turnout gear for fire departments and police cars.

Some of the key strategies that came out of this act are broadband connectivity, developing the rural economy, technological innovation, supporting the real workforce and improving the quality of life. One other issue that all our counties face and Rural Development wants to help is efforts to help with substance abuse. These funds can go to not only counties, cities and towns but also community based non-profits. Funding opportunities for this may involve beds, equipment or desks for instance. The applicant must own and control the equipment, you cannot ask for another group's benefit and pass it along. Faith-based organizations must be open to serve anyone that wants their service, not just a segment of the population.

This is a grant based on the median household income. The lower the population, the lower the median household income equals the higher percentage of grant you can receive.


USDA usually has \$300,000 per year to grant. With this declaration the amount is \$2 million to grant. These funds are not tied to the fiscal year since it was a separate act, but there is no guarantee that funds will last past the fiscal year. The maximum grant is \$50,000. These funds are not for recreation projects, but can be used wellness equipment (weight room equipment, refurbished ambulance, fire trucks, etc.) Generators, storm sirens, security cameras, computer systems, books/shelves for libraries, pump for flood levy wall and equipment for youth centers are examples of fundable items.

Craig has all the paperwork for applying for these funds along with a checklist to keep organized. The hardest thing in the whole application is a budget and balance sheet.

ADJOURN

The next scheduled Full Board meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020 at 7:30 pm. There being no further discussions or business to come before the Full Board, Vice-Chair Tara Damin thanked everyone for participating this on the Board this year and called for a motion to adjourn. Motion for adjournment was made by Tom Hauser, seconded by Don Wertman and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul Lorey, Secretary
PL/ct