



**South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission**

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*Serving the Illinois Counties of Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper and Marion since 1972*

**MINUTES – MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017  
VILLAGE GARDEN  
SALEM, ILLINOIS**

**Commissioners Present**

David Johnson	Clay County
Dan Sulsberger	Clay County
Herb Henson	Clay County
Ernie Garbe	Effingham County
David Campbell	Effingham County
Mike Brown	Effingham County
Norbert Soltwedel	Effingham County
Larry Taylor	Effingham County
Sasha Althoff	Effingham County
Lloyd Stanley	Fayette County
Jeff Beckman	Fayette County
Glen Gurtner	Fayette County
Rick Gottman	Fayette County
John Lotz	Fayette County
John Roberts	Fayette County
Angela Fehrenbacher	Jasper County
Jason Warfel	Jasper County
Erwin Hahn	Marion County
Chet Burks	Marion County
David Armbrust	Marion County
Mark Gibson	Marion County
Janie Grimes	Marion County

**Guests Present:** None

**Staff Present:** James Patrick, Executive Director  
Jeanne Dunahee, Assistant

Chairman Soltwedel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** *(Taken by signature sheet – see the list of attendees above)*

Twenty-two voting Commissioners attended, constituting a legal quorum. Soltwedel asked if there was any further business. There being none, he moved on to the Recognition of Guests.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS/HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

No recognition of guests.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **February 28, 2017 Monthly Meeting**

Soltwedel reported there are a few revisions to be made to the Minutes. He noted that Sasha Althoff's name was listed twice under "Commissioners Present" and Ernie Garbe was omitted. Also, on page three under New Business – Commission's Sharp Copier text was omitted. It should read: Patrick noted that the Commission's Sharp Copier lease with the Executive Business Products expires in May 2017. The proposed new copier will contain one less paper drawer, which previous copier had two letter size drawers, and add a fax expansion kit. The new equipment lease agreement provides a monthly savings in the amount of \$127.84. After some discussion, Soltwedel entertained a motion by T. Brown to accept the new copier lease as proposed, a second was made by M. Brown (*Approved*).

Soltwedel asked if there were any other additions or corrections to the Minutes. Gibson asked about the paragraph following the copier report, if the words "next year's audit report" was correct. Patrick noted it was, as Lyon's had expressed interest in conducting the Commission's audit for FY-2017. Soltwedel asked if there were any further amendments or questions. There being none, a motion was made by Gibson to approve the Minutes as amended, a second was made by Lotz (*Approved*).

## **BILLS & COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Upcoming Grant Deadlines and Submissions**

#### **(Possible effects of the Federal Budget on EDA and CDBG Grants)**

Patrick referred to page four, informed those present that if any of the communities the board members represents are interested in a CDBG grant it is time for planning and surveying. If there are any questions concerning the Commission grant services, please call the staff. He reported there are possible effects of the Federal Budget on EDA and CDBG grants. Trump has proposed budget cuts in the amount of \$215 million to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA supports the Commissions "District Planning Grant", 100% of Luke's salary and a portion of Jeanne and James' salary. It also supports "distressed communities with their infrastructure needs that will help drive local and regional growth," promotes "economic development projects that spur entrepreneurship and innovation at the regional level," and "provides direct technical assistance to firms negatively impacted by global trade. The Obama Administration gave a \$300 million increase to the administration in, he thought 2015. That would mean that EDA would still have \$85 million more than they had in 2014, but the Commission may see their 301 (b) district planning grant be cut back to prior levels and possibly less infrastructure grant funding.

President Trump's has proposed federal budget would cut \$6 billion in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, eliminating one of the department's longest running programs, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which funds programs which benefit low-income people with such items as storm sewers, water mains, water towers, housing rehab, emergency public infrastructure replacement/repair (which the Commission is in the process of doing for the City of Altamont), economic development and much more. The Commission is presently working on three economic development grants, which is one of programs that gives rural areas a true leg up when it comes to economic development. He gave an example of how important the CDBG program is by itself: Per the recent EDA Government Performance and Results Act report, over the last three year district planning grant (2014-2016) using primarily CDBG grants the Commission has been involved in the creation and retention of 269.4 jobs and helped attract \$82,286,887 in sector investments throughout the region. That amount does not

include the benefits of the programs to the Commission's member local governments. Patrick noted several cuts being made to the federal budget, but there are a lot of deep cuts being made at all once. He noted he would keep an eye on the situation and how it will affect the Commission.

### **Community Development Block Grant Preparedness**

Patrick reported, now is the time communities that have major projects such as water main, storm sewer replacement, or housing rehab needs to contact the Commission. He noted there is a considerable amount of work and planning before an application can be prepared.

### **Project Updates**

The Commission submitted their GIS grant for the Commission to elevate the awareness to local governments and businesses of the Commission's GIS services. The Commission can provide those services at reduced or sometimes free rates to regional businesses. The grant request was in the amount of \$35,000 and can be used for a part time GIS intern, match a portion of Luke's salary as required by EDA, and if finances continue to improve the Commission could hire a person, down the road, that is compatible with both GIS and Grant Manager abilities. He reported that St. Elmo was recently awarded a Community Facility Grant for new storm sirens through USDA. Luke is traveling to St. Elmo, Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> to finalize the paperwork on that grant. The CDBG Economic Development Grant for Farmweld, Inc. is finally on the director's desk to be signed after waiting for a period of 6 months. The Commission is currently completing a \$120,000 Community Development Initiative loan for the City of Altamont's storm sewer and Division Street's paving project. He asked that the Areawide Loan Review Committee members mark their calendars for a Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting located at Ellen's in Farina at 8:00 A.M. to review the application. He also noted that Luke has made some great improvements to the Commission's website and ask that each Commissioner check it out [www.scirpdc.com](http://www.scirpdc.com)

### **SBA 504 Loan Update**

Patrick informed those present that Deb's Catering, Inc.'s SBA loan application has been submitted to SBA for approval.

### **By Law Updates per SBA**

Patrick reported that Jeanne has updated the Commission's By Laws to include required SBA language which included 11 issues to be changed and submitted to SBA by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in order to remain in compliance with SBA CDC requirements. On March 20<sup>th</sup> she received approval from SBA of the submitted changes, which will need to be discussed and approved by the Executive Committee following the March 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The changes will then be brought before the full board at the April 25, 2017 board meeting for approval. Patrick noted that was all he had to report under Bills & Communications. Soltwedel ask if there were any questions, there being none entertained a motion from Beckman to approve the Bills and Communications as presented and a second from M. Brown (*Approved*).

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **February 16, 2017 – March 15, 2017 Commission Financial Report**

Patrick referred to page 5, bringing attention to checks #31562 and #31585 reporting the two figures are both local match for EDA and check #31565 is a bill concerning computer issues. He noted that upon the advice of Henson, the Commission will change from Charter Communications to Wabash Internet once they are in the Salem area. Henson noted they recently are conducting business in the Salem area and Patrick noted he would give them a call.

Checks written from February 21<sup>st</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup> totaled \$42,235.50. Patrick moved on to page 6, reporting the activity on the Business Now Account, Checking Account, Accounts Receivables, the EDA 301 (b) Account and reported that EDA has been contacted by both phone and email to see where the EDA contract is, as the new fiscal year begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. He then moved on to page 7, reporting the EDA Title IX RLF Account and the Title IX RLF Savings Account activities and the Title IX RLF Sequestered Account and the RBI/CDI Account. Patrick moved on to pages 8 through 10 reporting the Year-to-Date Financial Statement, Revenue Update on CD's and on the Loan Portfolio Report. He reported that Gottman told him, just before the meeting, that Thompson's had declared personal bankruptcy. It is in the Legal Notice section of The Leaders Union, Vandalia/Fayette County newspaper, if anyone wants to read it. The Commission's concern is when and how it will affect the payments they are now receiving per an Agreed Judgment. He also reported that the Commission received an Order of Discharge, from the bankruptcy court, was granted to Sessions. Patrick moved on to page 11, reporting the breakdown on Sleep Stores, Inc. loan payments and ending balance of \$41,434.16. Patrick asked if there were any questions concerning the Treasurer's Report. Soltwedel ask if there were any more questions, there being none, a motion was made by Gottman to accept the Treasurers Report as presented and seconded by Henson (*Approved*).

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **February 16, 2017 – March 15, 2017**

Patrick referred to pages 12 through 15, asking those present to read the report as he has covered most of it in other sections of the meeting. Patrick asked if there were any questions, there being none he moved on.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Dan Sulsberger was added**

Patrick asked Sulsberger to join him and presented him with a plaque from the Commission. Dan is retiring from his position as the Economic Director in Flora, Illinois in April and resigning from the SCIRPDC board. Soltwedel told Sulsberger he would be missed and appreciated him.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Henson and seconded by Stanley, to adjourn the Commission's monthly business meeting held on March 28, 2017 (*Approved*). The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

**APPROVED THIS, THE 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2017 A.D.**

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Herb Henson, Corporate Secretary  
SCIRPDC

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Norbert Soltwedel Chairman  
SCIRPDC