

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

July 28, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Office Conference Room

PRESENT: Commissioners Allen Springer, Mary Starrett, and Kathy George.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Christian Boenisch, Chuck Vesper, John Phelan, Bill Anderson, Murray Paolo, Anne Britt and Lucy Flores Mendez.

Guests: Chad Freeman, SEDCOR

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Allen called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

SEDCOR- Chad Freeman from Strategic Economic Development Corporation provided a brief background of SEDCOR, which has worked on economic development since 1982 with Marion Polk County and trade sector companies. He stated that currently there are 646 manufacturers across the three-region and roughly 22,000 employees. He gave an update on the progress of the federal grant work and the hiring process, which seems to be going well, and said that the goal is to help employers find the right people.

Allen expressed how important it is to have young kids get exposure to these companies and for these companies to look at this generation and begin encouraging kids to learn about trade and self-worth and challenge them to step into the job arena. He said that the county needs to step in to help with this because there are a lot of kids that have some experience that they aren't aware of, and the right kind of encouragement and opportunities could launch them to bright careers.

Kathy agreed with Allen and said the schools went the wrong way by taking shop, home economics, and other work and skill related educational opportunities from the curriculum. She contrasted this de-emphasis of industrial arts education with the emphasis on school sports programs in which many students cannot participate. She gave credit to the strong programs like FFA that provided opportunities to many of our students. She suggested that maybe the county use the monies in a broad sense and not just pick and choose individual companies.

Chad concluded by discussing other areas that SEDCOR has been working on, such as implementing the grant, working through the hiring process, consultant work, and working with other companies.

Session recessed at 1:56 p.m. and reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS-

* Approve the selection of Option 1 for the redesign of Abbey/Kuehne/Hendricks intersection, as recommended by a subcommittee of the Road Improvement Advisory Committee.

John Phelan discussed Option 1 as the design for Abbey/Kuene/Hendricks intersection redesign proposed by Tony Roos of Cardno-Entrix. John added that he would like to fast-track the bid and construction to spring/summer of next year, at best. He said cost-wise, this is the best option and the initial cost is about \$80,000 for the construction, depending on how the year goes.

- * Approve an updated Tourist- and Business-Oriented Directional Signs for County and Public Road Right-of-Way Sign Policy ('Blue Sign' Policy).
- * Approve the relocation of two existing stop signs at the intersection of Starr Quarry Road and Telegraph Road and the intersection of Telegraph Road and Whiteson Road to facilitate better traffic flow.
- * Authorize the placement of "No Thru Trucks" signs on Worden Hill Road.

Bill Anderson stated that this is not a road for a large vehicle to be on and trucks that ignore the signs will be cited with a non-compliance letter. Kathy requested a copy of the non-compliance letter from Bill.

- * Approve the closure of rail crossings on the following roads for crossing repairs:
 - a. Rock Creek Road, August 5th and possibly August 6th.
 - B. Riverbend Road, August 6th and possibly August 7th.

John provided other department updates.

- * Personnel - Allen reviewed personnel requests from various departments. See formal session agenda for details.
- * Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Murray Paolo provided background information on the microwave system and a notice of intent to award to Star Microwave for Phase 1 of this project in the amount of \$292,500, which includes tower work.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Lucy Flores Mendez
Secretary