

Cedar County Economic Development Commission
August 9, 2016 – 5:30 PM
Cedar County Extension Office
Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Jon Bell, Dawn Smith, Leanne Boots, Adam Sandberg, Roger Laughlin
Staff Present: Rod Ness, Lisa Decker
Guests: Sue Hall, Tim Long, Ryan Murphy

Vice Chair Jon Bell called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Roll call was taken.

Consent Agenda Additions/Agenda Approval

- Dawn Smith made a motion, seconded by Leanne Boots, to approve the agenda, minutes and financial statements. All ayes.

Visitors

- Ryan Murphy from Iowa Workforce Development gave an in-depth presentation on the results of the 2016 Laborshed Study in Cedar County. Iowa Workforce Development has been doing studies for 15 years, and they have done them in 98 of Iowa's 99 counties. He explained how a Laborshed is determined, workforce characteristics, commute statistics, estimated available labor force and wages. Labor market information is available on their website at www.iowalmi.gov.

Unfinished/Old Business

- The Director contacted three different attorneys for quotes on the cost for CCEDCO to attain a 501(c) status. Jon Bell stated he would like to wait to have a full Board in attendance to make a decision on this. In addition, with a full Board, other future CCEDCO goals will be discussed deeper.
- The Office Manager reported CCEDCO came in under budget for FY16.

New Business

- Durant decided not to join CCEDCO for FY17. The Executive Director will still engage and work with their chamber, council and other groups. He added their priority right now is housing. Dawn Smith added they now have their own development group and they decided to make some cuts, one of them being part of CCEDCO. Jon Bell added it is important to keep people from the communities involved in CCEDCO and to have them report back to their towns.

Executive Director's Report

- The Barn Quilt flyers has been completed and distributed throughout the county. He worked with several people and businesses in Tipton and West Branch.
- GrowCedar.com reported having a good percentage of the population going to the website. This has been the most activity on the website since December and January. The site helped promote 20 local community events. Facebook postings are also getting a lot of interest for their postings of local events and job opportunities in Cedar County.
- The "Get Scrappy" seminar was well attended by 25 people.
- Met with Hardacre Theater and worked with them to submit proposal for the ISU Design School program to do a project with the building. If they were selected, the project would take this fall.
- He was contacted again by North Cedar School to teach the Entrepreneur class to the 8th grade classes.

City Reports

- **West Branch** – Hoover Days were very successful again this year. A lot of advertising was done for the event. They are looking into doing some advertising on silos along the interstate with a “silos and barns” theme.
- **Mechanicsville** – Farmer’s Market is every Tuesday. Bridge Bank is hosting a “Meet & Greet” with law enforcement in the near future. The North Cedar Education Foundation’s annual golf tournament is Saturday, August 20th at the 3/30 Golf & Country Club in Lowden.
- **Tipton** - On July 1st the city took backwater and sewer operations and it is going well. They are in the process of hiring an Ambulance Director and Chief of Police. A “Chalk the Walk for Our Officers” will be Wednesday, August 9th from 10-2 at the City Hall and Cedar County Law Enforcement Center. Ordinances are being looked at for café tables in the downtown area.
- **Cedar County Supervisor (Dawn)** – The County Attorney’s Office and Recorder’s Office are fully moved. The Veteran’s Office would like to move from its current basement location to the first floor. They are looking for good people for Dispatchers and Jailers.
- **Durant** – A ten block street project is underway. The old water tower is down. They are looking at doing tax incentives for new housing developments. The Farmer’s Market on Wednesday night is doing well.
- **Cedar County Supervisor (Jon)** - Work continues on the Stanwood Drainage Ditch project. A compliance hearing was done. He attended a “Hiring Ex-Offenders” workshop at the Anamosa Penitentiary hosted by Iowa Works. It was very informative and they also took a tour of the facility.
- **Cedar County Supervisor (Dawn)** - She passed out business cards for the Mental Health and Disability mobile crisis unit. They 24/7 support for Cedar County. When you call the number, a dispatcher will have somebody come out. This program will be deployed in the next two weeks. Its purpose is to treat people without them having to go to the ER and/or hospital.

Announcements

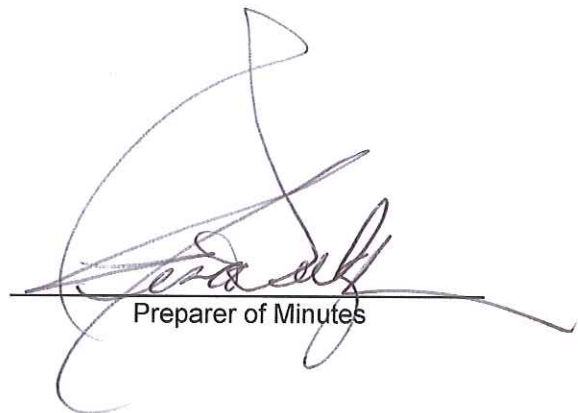
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 11th.

Adjourn

- With no further business, a motion was made by Dawn Smith, seconded by Adam Sandberg to adjourn at 7:17 PM.



Board Chair



Preparer of Minutes