

Executive/Economic Development Meeting  
Logan County Safety Complex  
May 20, 2013

Present: David Hepler-Chairman; Gene Rohlfs; Chuck Ruben

Absent: Rick Aylesworth; Bob Farmer; Bill Martin

Guests: Brian Bergen; Jan Schumacher

Mr. Hepler called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. There was no quorum present.

#### Old Business

- 1) Incubator status: Mr. Bergen reported the USDA has approved the construction of a new building. Atlanta city council has agreed to move forward with a partnership with EDP for this project. It appears tenants have been located to occupy the entire location.
- 2) Wind farm status: Substation work has begun on the Sugar Creek wind farm. The developers have purchased the former New Holland school building for use as a maintenance and administration facility. There has been no recent information received from ReLite.
- 3) Master plan implementation: Mr. Bergen reported the focus has been on workforce development plans. A visit is being planned to a casting plant in Pekin to identify how they engage local youth.
- 4) EDP benchmarks: Mr. Hepler questioned whether expectations could be established to identify the success of the Economic Development Partnership for continued support by the County. Mr. Bergen indicated comparisons (or benchmarks) could be established using such factors as: median income, population, business metrics, etc. He also suggested the structure of the current master plan does not facilitate the achievement of benchmarks. He feels it needs to be rewritten to accomplish real goals. The committee asked Mr. Bergen to bring forward some possible benchmarks to a future meeting for discussion.
- 5) Workforce demographics: Mr. Bergen reported these statistics have been compiled by Workforce Development and he will share those at a future meeting.
- 6) Broadband: Mr. Bergen discussed ongoing regional discussions regarding the availability of broadband in rural areas. A new committee has been formed in EDD to evaluate what assets are available.
- 7) CEDS: Mr. Bergen shared a draft document that was produced by a reorganization team for the EDD. A meeting is planned in Chicago on June 5<sup>th</sup> to meet with EDA to discuss the document. He recommended that the Logan County representative under the new model be a County Board member, in an effort to be more transparent.
- 8) Population decline/departure: Mr. Hepler expressed concern over the loss of the talented, younger population. Mr. Bergen shared this concern and indicated this problem extends throughout the Midwest. He suggested that a shift in focus may need to take place to try and attract/retain young families instead of young single individuals. The committee discussed ways to attract this population set, including: bike trails, schools, recreational opportunities and educational opportunities.

#### New Business

- 1) Tourism Bureau: Mr. Ruben indicated the Tourism Bureau has expressed concerns about the hiring of a new director with the uncertainty surrounding funding if the City of Lincoln takes over the hotel-motel tax funds. Since the County has received the funding in the past, he has asked the city for a decision in July so the County budget can be prepared correctly. Mr. Rohlfs asked for the State's Attorney to review statute to confirm the city has the legal authority to assume control of the funding.
- 2) County Administrator: This was not discussed.

- 3) Public Transportation Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM): This new requirement has been established by IDOT to oversee the public transportation program. It has been suggested it will take 75% of a full-time person's time the first year and approximately 50% of their time thereafter. Costs for this oversight can be reimbursed from the grant at a rate of 80%. Mr. Ruben suggested that the County Board secretary be moved into the County Clerk's office and those duties, along with this new requirement, could be absorbed by that office. He suggested that Mrs. Meagher assume these new duties and could continue with insurance administration and possibility grant writing and OSHA training, but would require an increase in salary given the responsibilities associated with those duties. Mr. Rohlf asked whether the public transportation program is really worth this extra responsibility. Community Action will be asked to attend the June meeting to discuss the program and provide information regarding utilization, etc.
- 4) Means Testing/Funding for legal indigence: The committee discussed whether some formal process should be instituted to confirm whether defendants should qualify for a public defender. Mr. Ruben suggested discussing this with Judge Yoder.

Meeting ended at 8:33 pm.