

Town of Fortville

11.16.23

RDC Meeting

Opening of Meeting:

The meeting was held at Fortville Town Hall, 714 E. Broadway. Meeting was called to order by RDC President Scott Meyer at 6:30pm.

Present:

Scott Meyer, President; Amy Lawson, Vice President; Hart Summeier, Secretary; Ed Brand, RDC Member; Chris McCreight, RDC Member; Adam Zaklikowski, Planning Director; Joe Renner, Town Manager; Alex Intermill, Town Attorney (Virtual).

Not Present:

N/A

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of item 4a (approval of the executive session as advertised). Motion made by Commissioner Ed Brand, seconded by Commissioner Hart Summeier. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the October 2023 minutes as distributed. Motion made by Commissioner Ed Brand, seconded by Commissioner Chris McCreight. Commissioners Scott Meyer and Amy Lawson abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the executive sessions as advertised. Motion made by Commissioner Hart Summeier, seconded by Commissioner Ed Brand. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Commissioner Hart Summeier made the motion to authorize the Town Manager and Council to make an offer with the monetary limit discussed, on the property discussed, to the seller discussed. Commissioner Ed Brand seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Financials:

Discussion on financials and adjustments to commitments. Motion made by Commissioner Ed Brand, seconded by Commissioner Amy Lawson. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Invoices:

Discussion and approval of various invoices related to property, appraisal, defibrillators for Police Department, and public roadway projects. Motions made by Commissioner Hart Summeier and seconded by Commissioner Amy Lawson for each invoice as presented. All motions carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

No members of the public wished to speak.

Staff/Board Comment:

A detailed discussion unfolded regarding the town's approach to economic development. The conversation primarily revolved around the need for hiring economic development consultants. There was a clear sense of urgency about soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from firms specializing in attracting businesses and industry to municipalities. This topic sparked some debate, with certain board members expressing frustration over what they perceived as a lack of progress in engaging such consultants.

The role of real estate firms in the town's economic development strategy was also a point of discussion. It was noted that while real estate firms play a crucial role in property transactions, their focus differs significantly from that of economic development consultants. The latter are seen as crucial for creating broader opportunities for growth and attracting diverse businesses to the area. Concerns were raised that an over-reliance on real estate firms for economic development might not fully align with the town's broader growth and development objectives. The discussion underscored the need for a more defined and strategic approach to economic development, one that goes beyond the traditional scope of real estate transactions to encompass a more holistic vision for the town's growth and prosperity. Staff Member Adam

Zaklikowski communicated a better understanding of the Board's objectives and will work to provide more information at the next general meeting of the RDC.

Meeting Adjourn:

Amy Lawson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm. Ed Brand seconded the motion. Motion carried, passed 5-0.

President:  , SECRETARY
Scott Meyer

Clerk-Treasurer: 
Missy Glazier