

# Wyandot County Office of Economic Development

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 11, 2019

**Attendees:** John Barnes, Andy Bishop, Lenny Clouse, LuAnn Cooke, Nathan Curtis, Chris Daris, Frank Gibson, Rex Grasz, Matt Jennings, Mark Johnson, Dean Keller, Joe Faine, Greg Knestrick, Greg Moon, Jessica Moon, Jennifer Rathburn, Steve Seitz, Shawn Stober, Elaine Tschanen, Tim Vaughn, Laurie Vent, Matt Wood

**Guests:** Jeremiah Aigler, Wyandot County Health Department

**Meeting Called to Order:** President John Barnes

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Motion to Approve January 14, 2019 Minutes: Lenny Clouse; Second: Tim Vaughn; Minutes Approved

**Financial Budget Update:** Greg reported that everything appeared to be in line with the budget. Motion to Approve Financial report: Jessica Moon; Second: Matt Wood; Financials were accepted

**Presentation:** A short presentation was given by Jeremiah Aigler, Wyandot County Health Department on Wyandot County's Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS).

### WCOED Director's Update

#### Old Business

- Project Updates
  - Arrowhead Business Park
    - John Barnes reported that the new Hanon expansion has just become occupied.
  - Sheriden Development
    - John reported that 23 acres have already been developed with 17 acres on the other side of the road available for development.
    - The new medical center is coming along nicely.
    - There is very promising news that a fast food restaurant will be coming.
    - Casey's General Store will be breaking ground very soon
    - And they are still looking for additional businesses to come
  - Community Opportunity
    - Greg reported that there are currently 151 job postings, 150+ businesses registered on the site, 1,284 high school students registered, and 372 basic users.
    - 3 weeks ago, Greg spent a day at Carey Schools introducing all of their juniors and seniors to Community Opportunity, getting them thinking about pursuing local careers, and having them create profiles in the system.

- Carey now has 113 students in the system; Mohawk has 174; Upper Sandusky 146; and Wynford 150.
  - Wyandot Employment Task Force
    - WCOED and the Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce is continuing efforts along with this group to establish the continuing workforce needs of local businesses.
    - Over the past two months this group has finalized an action plan and is making progress on a number of fronts:
      - One example being the creation of an HR Network, which will be a resource for the HR professionals who are a part of it, and for schools looking to interface with area businesses.
        - One example of its usefulness came from the fact that Carey HS Juniors have a requirement to do job shadowing one day during the school year. Every single junior goes to either Marathon or Cooper Tire to meet this requirement. Here is where having the HR network could be of value to get those students out in the Wyandot County community instead of sending them to Hancock County.
      - For 2019, meetings have been set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8:15 a.m. at First Citizens National Bank in Upper Sandusky.
  - North Central Ohio Region Industry Manufacturers Workforce Alliance
    - This group has a regional geography of Marion and surrounding counties, and consists of partners similar to the local Employment Task Force except it is solely focused on the manufacturing industry.
    - Greg accepted an invitation to sit on the governing board of this group as its economic development representative. These regional manufacturing partnerships fall under the statewide effort organized by the Ohio Manufacturers Association so what happens in our regional group gets reported back to the state-wide entity, and vice-versa we have access to what all of the other regional groups are doing.
    - The next meeting of our North Central Ohio Regional group will be at Vaughn Industries on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12:30 – 2:45 if anyone is interested in attending.
  - Daycare
    - The Wyandot Employment Task Force under its Retention and Attraction themes also identified daycare as another local barrier Wyandot County has.
    - Currently there is no licensed daycare available in Wyandot County. Originally, it was being considered that the County Home was a viable option because they had an entire wing that was not being utilized. Since the last board meeting they realized that opportunity would not be an option
    - Another option that was being considered was the Apostolic Gospel Church in Upper Sandusky, which has been looking to offer daycare. Due to the size of the church, it would be able to support about 35 children.
    - Looking at Wyandot County's demographics, and a survey that was facilitated through Facebook, this single facility will not support the local demand for a licensed childcare. Therefore, potential locations are still being looked at.
  - Business in Focus Article
    - Greg has been working with Focus Media Group, the publisher of a few different industry publications including Business in Focus magazine, on developing a story around Wyandot County Economic Development.

- That story was published in the February edition of the magazine, which has over 468,000 subscribers across North America.
    - If you did not see it in our newsletter, it is available to view on the WCOED website.
- Project Lead Tracking
  - Since the January meeting there were 3 new leads for existing buildings
    - Project Film – Was a specific NW Ohio lead for a roughly 20,000 SF building or a build-to-suit option. Greg worked with Lenny and Adam at Clouse Construction and put together an RFI for this lead on a 2.5 acre site in the Upper Sandusky industrial park. This lead is for a manufacturer of specialty plastic products that would invest roughly \$3M and create 30 jobs. This proposal is still in the running.
    - Greg was also able to submit the same site for an inquiry from a broker out of Toledo. That client has since upped their timeline, which took the build-to-suit option out of the running.
    - Since our last meeting there was also 1 new lead received for a bare site. This was for a site of over 200 acres, which we do not have.

## **New Business**

- New Projects
  - Upper Sandusky Commercial Developments
    - Two Upper Sandusky projects recently cleared the Upper Sandusky Planning Commission that are slated to bring new construction to the City.
      - One involves the construction of a roughly 10,000 SF facility that will house a new Dollar Tree store next door to what is now Showplace Rentals on E. Wyandot Avenue. A lot split was currently done to provide this new building the remainder of the road frontage between Showplace and the Steer Barn.
      - The other recent project receiving planning approval was for a Casey's General Store on the southwest corner of the Wyandot Ave. and 8<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in Upper Sandusky. This development will involve the former Certified gas station lot as well as about 4 adjacent parcels. The Casey's development will be a fuel service station as well.
  - Ohio In-Demand Jobs Week
    - WCOED and the Wyandot Employment Task Force (WETF) are asking local employers, schools, and community organizations to consider holding events promoting local in-demand jobs during the week of May 6-10th.
    - The Ohio In-Demand Jobs Week is an effort to promote those occupations by collecting a running list and schedule of relative events happening around the state. Events could include happenings within organizations such as open houses, educational sessions, and any other ideas that might fit in the promotion of local careers.
    - Some local examples that will be added to the list include:
      - Wyandot Memorial Hospital's festivities in recognition of National Hospital Week
      - LeaderCast Live leadership training being offered at Trinity Evangelical on Friday, May 10th
      - Various employers offering a 'Bring Your Child to Work Day' throughout the week
    - The WETF will act as the central collection point for all relative happenings in Wyandot County, and will forward Wyandot County's list on to the state. This helps promote the vast number of viable career options within Wyandot County

by showing your participating, and letting us know what you have going on. We want to build a strong county listing to prop Wyandot up on the state list of events.

- Another effort Greg will put forward is taking a snapshot of all the current Wyandot County job postings in Community Opportunity on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and advertising all of those local positions in our newspapers, online, and through email to showcase the various careers currently posted in Community Opportunity, and to draw attention to the platform itself.
- Amplify Business Development Conference
  - WCOED has been working with the Wyandot Chamber to offer again a local educational event for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and established businesses that includes resources for all.
  - During the morning of Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we are organizing the Amplify Business Development Conference, which will include 3 concurrent sessions and a luncheon speaker on topics such as; Patents and Intellectual Property, business planning, business filings, small business funding, marketing, managing multi-generational staff, websites, and social media, and Google integration.
- Upper Sandusky Schools Business Advisory Council
  - Laurie Vent reported that the school held an employer-student panel with local businesses for the junior students, which was very well received.
  - She also reported that teachers and administration are planning events around Ohio Demand Week on May 6-10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Laurie explained what the state has laid out for its new graduation plan proposal. Specifically that they are making graduation more personal to suit each student's needs, and to encourage experience in applicable career fields. She asked for anyone to send feedback on this proposal.

#### **Updates from WCOED Members & Guests were shared**

**Motion to Adjourned:** Lenny Clouse; meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting: Monday, May13, 2019**