

# Wyandot County Office of Economic Development

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 9, 2020

**Attendees:** Darrell Baird, John Barnes, Beth Book, Lisa Bricely, Cathy Browne, Cassie Carlson, Bill Clinger, Lexa Cheney, Lenny Clouse, Dave Courtad, Jason Eibling, Rick Ekleberry, Amanda Fleming, Frank Gibson, Rex Grasz, Mark Johnson, Greg Knestrick, Ken Lucius, Margaret Lucius, Riordan McClain, Rob McClure, Greg Moon, Jessica Moon, Ariel Nearhood, Sara Pahl, Lyneen Reinschell, Hannah Schlichting, Steve Seitz, Gary Smalley, Elaine Tschanen, Tim Vaughn, Paul Wagner, Scott Washburn

**Guests:** Todd Frey, Roger Hetzel, Brad Batton, Melissa Akison, Jonathan Zucker

**Wyandot County Candidates Forum:** A presentation with a Q&A session was given from the each of the following candidates in contested races:

- Todd Frey for Wyandot County Sheriff
- Roger Hetzel for Wyandot County Sheriff
- Brad Batton for Wyandot County Commissioner
- Steve Seitz for Wyandot County Commissioner
- Jonathan Zucker for State Central Committee 26<sup>th</sup> District
- Melissa Akison for Ohio Senate 26<sup>th</sup> District

**Meeting Called to Order:** President, Rex Grasz

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** John Barnes made a motion to approve the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes and Tim Vaughn made a second. The minutes were approved.

**Financial Budget Update:** Sara Pahl reported that WCOED received A-1 Printing as a new member since the last meeting. Margaret Lucius introduced herself as the owner and representative from A-1 Printing. Sara also reported that WCOED's expenses were in line with the budget. Rick Ekleberry made a motion

to accept the financial report and John Barnes made a second. Financial report was accepted.

## Old Business

- Countywide Collaboration Concept
  - Greg reported that discussions have progressed on the establishment of a new umbrella entity to serve as the united front for our countywide development organizations, including Economic Development, both the Wyandot Chamber of Commerce and the Carey Chamber of Commerce, and the Visitors Bureau.
  - With guidance from Sara Pahl and Jessica Moon, the most applicable and useful entity type would be a new 501(c)3 organization that they are proposing to be named the Wyandot Improvement Network or “WIN” for short.
  - A new board for WIN would be formed likely with 2 members from each of the participating entities.
  - At a later time, a detailed proposed board makeup of this new entity will be presented, but more than likely it would involve the Executive Director of the WCOED along with another appointed member from the WCOED board.
  - Jessica Moon added that the next step in this process is to have a formal name, an EIN and organizational documents.
  - Greg asked for a motion to move forward with registering the name and beginning the filing process for this new 501(c)3.
    - Margaret Lucius made a motion to move forward with setting up the new entity. Greg Knestrick made a second. The motion passed.
  - The boards of the other entities will need to vote on this as well.
  - Each individual entity would continue to function on their own but will operate under one umbrella possibly using the same space, staff, subscriptions, resources, etc.

## New Business

- Community Improvement Corporation Dissolution
  - Greg reported that back in 2017 the WCOED took control of the Community Improvement Corporation of the Upper Sandusky Area, which was another local organization operating under a 501(c)6. It was initiated in the 1960s to handle economic development related efforts and has been dormant for many years.

- Recently after doing some research, Greg found that entity was in fact active and current with the Ohio Secretary of State, but in 2011 its exemption status had been revoked with the IRS.
- In talking with Sara Pahl, Greg found out that the steps involved to bring the CIC back into active status with the IRS is a significant challenge. The soundest course of action will be to formally dissolve the CIC.
  - In order to do so, according to the organization's original articles of incorporation, a motion is needed to dissolve the CIC and have its assets of roughly \$6000+ applied to the WCOED.
  - Following, the Wyandot County Court of Common Pleas would also need to approve the decision.
- A motion to dissolve the CIC was made by Tim Vaughn and a second was made by John Barnes. The motion was then unanimously passed by way of voice vote.
- Upper Sandusky Schools Business Advisory Council
  - Lexa Cheney explained the new Ohio High School Graduation Requirements for 2023. She also explained how WCOED and community members will be an important part in helping students acquire the readiness part of what is needed for graduation.

Rick Ekleberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Lenny Clouse.