

Economic Development Committee Minutes

April 13, 2015 at 6pm
Village Hall, Port Byron, IL

1) Call to order by the Chairman

Chairman Clinton Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6pm.

2) Roll Call/ Establishment of a Quorum

Present: Clinton Sullivan, Kevin Klute, Barb Cray, Ron Jacobs, and Ryan Melton.

Absent: Terry Foust and Barb Cartwright.

3) Gallery- Questions and Comments

No gallery questions.

4) Official Business

A: Telepharm

Kevin Klute, Ryan Melton, and Steve Andry met with Alex Brieber of Telepharm on Wednesday April 8th about bringing a pharmacy to town. This is unlike a regular pharmacy because it will not have a pharmacist on premises. There is a storefront and 2-3 pharmacy techs in the building. If a customer would need to talk to the pharmacist, it would be done via video conferencing. There is one pharmacist on-call by video for every 3-4 stores. This will save money for the store by not having 1 on the premises at all times. This company is rather new, it was started in 2012, but it now has 100 stores in 10 states. They like to work with rural communities who are in need of a pharmacy. The whole process usually takes 2-6 months to open. What they need from us is an investment of \$50,000 from the city or private investors to get started. The building would be anywhere from 200-2,000 square feet. The price on drugs with them is very competitive with other pharmacies like Walgreens and Wal-Mart. They said they would need an average of 40 prescriptions filled per day to break even. The closest pharmacy to us, which was Porter's in Hampton, has closed as well as the pharmacy in LeClaire, so there may be a need for one in the area. More work is to be done to see if this is something that will work for us or not.

B: Nominating a Secretary

Barb Cray was nominated by Ron Jacobs, second by Ryan Melton. Barb said she would do it after some discussion. Ron Jacobs- yes. Ryan Melton- yes. Kevin Klute- yes. Clinton Sullivan- yes. Barb Cray- yes. Terry Foust- absent. Barb Cartwright- absent. This passed with a 5-0 vote. Barb Cray is now the Secretary for the Economic Development committee.

5) Administrative

A: Approve meeting minutes from March

Kevin Klute made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ron Jacobs. Kevin Klute- yes. Ron Jacobs- yes. Ryan Melton- yes. Barb Cray- yes. Clinton Sullivan- yes. Terry Foust- absent. Barb Cartwright- absent. Meeting minutes from March have been approved by a 5-0 vote.

6) Old business

A: Marketing materials update

Kevin found some marketing materials at Village Hall from May of 2012. These were passed out to the committee. Where can we put these? Visitor Centers, QC

Convention and Visitors Bureau, Arsenal Island's visitor center?? Clinton Sullivan will be taking a handful with him to meet with Joe Taylor on Friday April 17th during the Sparta bike ride conference call. He will ask Joe what he thinks and where they might be able to go. We may need to look into updating the information on them as it is nearly 3 years old. Barb Cray is to look into this for the committee.

B: Old Academy- MSA study approved (IRDC)

The committee was informed the the village board passed spending \$7,400 last week for MSA to do a scope of work on asbestos mitigation and tear down of the building. This is the first step in getting this building down. Currently it is in IRDC's hands until the tear down and then we can work on getting the right project going on the site. We are hoping to have the building demo'd still this year.

C: Bike ride to Sparta

Bruce Peterson is the main contact for this event and he was here to give us an update. He is working with Joe Taylor of the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau. Sparta, Wisconsin, is the capital of bike riding for southern Wisconsin. The event is to be held the 1st weekend in October starting here in Port Byron. There is a conference call scheduled for Friday April 17th at 10am with each city involved. Joe Taylor, Bruce Peterson, and Clinton Sullivan will be on the call for Port Byron. We are hoping to find out what they need from Port Byron to get this thing done. The bike ride committee and the economic development committee need to work together. This could be a huge impact for Port Byron, not only this year, but in years to come. What we do today can help for next year and years after. There is a cap of 200 riders the first year. Eventually there will be a need for the Economic Development Committee to ask for money from the village board, but we won't know how much until after the next conference call. What demographics are they expecting for this bike ride; seniors, retirees, young people? We will be find out on the conference call.

D: Housing development (11th Street)

Mike Ingleby of Re-Max is currently working with 2 developers trying to get them interested in this project. We will stay in touch with Mike.

E: Dorrance Park (added last minute)

There is over 80 acres in the park and the village may look into taking over this park from the county. We could have many things go on here, like snow skiing, biking trails, hiking, camping, baseball and softball tournaments. This could be a revenue generator for the city. We would like to be known for recreation here in Port Byron. We have Tug Fest, now the Sparta bike ride, possible kayaking on the river, the bike trail, and now hopefully the park with all it has to offer.

7) New business

Only item in new business is that Ryan Melton has turned in his resignation effective immediately. We wished him luck in his new job and thanked him for his service on the committee. He is going to ask Steve (President) from Port Byron State Bank if he is interested in the position and he will let Clinton Sullivan know.

8) Gallery- Questions and Comments

No questions or comments.

9) Adjourn

Kevin Klute made a motion to adjourn. Ron Jacobs seconded it. All in favor- yes. 5-0 in favor of adjourning. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Next meeting date: Monday May 11, 2015 at 6pm.