



Minutes

Jasper Economic Development Inc. (JEDI) Meeting

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 1:15 P.M.

Jasper County Chamber Office

Peoples State Bank Room

124 S Van Buren St, Newton, IL 62448

Attending Jack Thompson, Ron Heltsley, Mark Bolander, Larry Brooks, Jason Warfel, Doug Weddell, Natalie Hopson, Louis Ochs, Tom Brown, Mindy Hartke, Marlene Harris, and Ken Larimore.

1. Call to order, JEDI Executive Director Ken Larimore.
2. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made Jason Warfel, second by Larry Brooks, motion passed.
3. **Program:** We toured the Newton Business Incubator (after the meeting). There are 3 businesses using the cubicles. The occupants get a cubicle, access to the meeting room, office equipment and wi-fi. Valerie Clark owner of Valerie's Domestic Crafts gave us a tour of the art education she provides. It is open to everyone and she seems to especially enjoy seeing how she can impact youth. Another new business is LulaRoe a clothing sales business run by Brook Woods and Shelby Wagner. The third occupant is the Embarrass River Tourism Council ERTC. Please have anyone interested contact the Chamber.
4. **Community marketing program.** Mark Bolander explained the committee is researching a new Eagle symbol for county branding.
5. Monthly Updates
 - a. **Ken Larimore, JEDI Executive Director**
 - i. The medical facility project is still progressing. I am working with the medical facility owners on TIF and EZ applications.
 - ii. The event center is searching for the perfect site. If anyone knows of 5-20 acres please let Ken know.



- iii. The Newton biodiesel plant is now owned by a bank and we are searching for a national or international buyer to finally put the plant into production. Ken talked with a potential buyer this morning.
 - iv. We are processing several TIF applications so contact Ken if you would like to know more about the TIF or Enterprise Zone programs.
 - v. JEDI will be touring some businesses in Ste. Marie at the next monthly meeting on July 10 (Second Tuesday due to the 4th). Carpooling will be available if people pre-register.
- b. Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton**
- i. The Bridge Dedication ceremony and 5 K run went great. Had a good turnout and the run raised funds for Jasper Cancer fund and Lincoln's Place.
 - ii. Tractor Supply is doing well.
 - iii. Marketing Committee-will meet after the JEDI meeting.
 - iv. Newton has received a CDAP grant for Housing Rehabilitation. This will be a great opportunity for up to 10 residents to have their homes updated and improved.
 - v. The city is seeking an IDOT grant to reconstruct Route 33 that is getting rough again.
- c. Ron Heltsley, Jasper County Board.**
- i. The Jasper County Audit was approved.
 - ii. Recycling was attempted again but still misused.
 - iii. The use of gaming funds was approved.
 - iv. Update on Gun Resolution.
6. Comments from those attending the meeting. Doug Weddell said the school has purchased new buses. Doug also updated us on the big music event that will be held at the fairgrounds in August.
7. Motion to close meeting made by Louis Ochs, second by Jack Thompson, and motion passed.