



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
**EXTENSION**

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work



## Minutes

Jasper Economic Development Inc. (JEDI) Meeting

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 1:15 P.M.**

### SPECIAL LOCATION

**Newton Community High School**

201 West End Avenue

Newton, IL 62448

<http://www.cusd1.jasper.k12.il.us/>

**Attending** Scott Bierman, Scott Bloomberg, Anna Hemrich, Evan Fox, Ron Heltsley, Larry Brooks, Jason Warfel, Doug Weddell, Mark Bolander, Brett Lessley, Ed Webb, Jack Thompson, Andy Johnson, Beth Probst, Louis Ochs, Tom Brown, Mindy Hartke and Ken Larimore

1. Call to order, Chairman Scott Bierman.
2. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Larry Brooks, second by Jack Thompson, motion passed.
3. **TOUR of vocational department and other program updates at NCHS. Thank you to Superintendent Johnson and Principal Probst for guiding us on a great tour. These programs give a great education to all the students.**
  - **Mr. Brock Tarr** demonstrated the Plasma Cutter that they are using in the welding shop. He explained how it operated and the items it could produce. He also mentioned all the different kind of welders NCHS had and the different skills that were taught in his classes. He finished with discussing the dual credit opportunities we offer and how they would be able to complete 3 classes at NCHS towards a welding certificate at a junior college such as OCC.
  - We then loaded a bus and visited the new structure where we are housing materials for our Ag Construction class. **Mr. Lidy** talked about the projects they are currently working on in class for community members and the skills they are gaining in the new Ag Construction class.

**Office:** 618-783-3409    **E-mail:** [larimore@illinois.edu](mailto:larimore@illinois.edu)  
<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/jaspercumberland/ced.html>  
[www.jaspercountyillinois.org](http://www.jaspercountyillinois.org)



- Finally we visited the automotive shop, where Mr. Volk discussed the different opportunities and skills students learned in his classes. The group was able to see all sorts of tools and mechanisms being used for various things. Mr. Volk's classes like many of our vocational classes are filled to the maximum capacity. We continue to review curriculum and try to find ways to provide more opportunities for all students and to stay current with the latest technology.
4. Monthly Updates
- a. Ken Larimore, CED Extension Educator
    - i. Ken gave an update on TIF and Enterprise Zone activities. Please contact Ken if you know of any new or expanding businesses that he can help with economic development tools.
  - b. Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton
    - i. Mark announced a new medical facility is being discussed.
    - ii. There is also research being done on an event center.
  - c. Ron Heltsley, Jasper County Board Chairman
    - i. Active shooter training was completed by county employees.
    - ii. The recycling program is being abused by those putting garbage in the recycling. The county can't continue the program if the abuse continues.
    - iii. The Sheriff added additional staff.
    - iv. The board appointed an advisory committee for the use of gaming funds.
    - v. Good update on elections and number of judges needed.
    - vi. Smart Energy program as used to reduce county costs.
    - vii. The county was awarded a Safety Grant.
  - d. Andy Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
    - i. Building updates.
    - ii. Enrollment figures.
    - iii. Athletic Department staffing.
    - iv. Bus replacement program.
5. Comments from those attending the meeting.
6. Motion to close meeting made by Larry Brooks, second by Ron Heltsley, and motion passed.