



Minutes

Jasper Economic Development Inc. (JEDI) Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 1:15 P.M.

Jasper County Chamber Office

Peoples State Bank Room

124 S Van Buren St, Newton, IL 62448

Attending Andy Johnson, Ron Heltsley, Mark Bolander, Larry Brooks, Brett Lessley, Jason Warfel, Doug Weddell, Natalie Hopson, Mindy Hartke, Marlene Harris, and Ken Larimore. Guests Dr. Bloemer and Haj Roepking.

1. Call to order, JEDI Chairman Scott Bierman.
2. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made Mark Bolander, second by Larry Brooks, motion passed.
3. **Guests Dr. Bloemer and Haj Roepking** described the Newton Medical Clinic building project that will be on Washington Street behind the Medicine Shoppe. The clinic will have extended hours and be a great health benefit to the community. We are very pleased they are investing in Jasper County.
4. **Chairman Scott Bierman** gave an update on the new JEDI Executive Director. Amber Volk has been selected. They city of Newton and Jasper County plan to approve her this week. She will be a city of Newton employee but work to benefit the entire county. Welcome Amber!
5. **Community marketing program.** Mark Bolander explained the committee is researching a new Eagle symbol for county branding and will be meeting soon.
6. Monthly Updates
 - a. **Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton**
 - i. Marketing Committee-will meet soon.
 - ii. Marilyn Liquors update.
 - iii. Newton Medical Clinic update.
 - iv. River Walk update.
 - v. 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.

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www.jaspercountyillinois.org



- vi. The city is seeking an IDOT grant to reconstruct Route 33 that is getting rough again.
- b. Ken Larimore, JEDI Executive Director**
- i. Ken is very pleased that Amber Volk has been hired to replace him. Welcome Amber! Ken thanked everyone for their input and energy over the last 14 years. A lot of progress has been made and he encourages everyone to keep communicating about the dreams for their community. It takes everyone working together to change the future.
 - ii. Ken is processing as many as 18 Enterprise Zone applications for the new Newton Medical Clinic.
 - iii. The event center is searching for the perfect site. If anyone knows of 5-20 acres please contact the JEDI office.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. We are processing several TIF applications so contact the JEDI office if you would like to know more about the TIF or Enterprise Zone programs.
 - vi. Many thanked Ken for his years of dedicated service to the community.
- c. Ron Heltsley, Jasper County Board.**
- i. Ron discussed the November election.
 - ii. Updated us on the new jail project.
 - iii. Encouraged those that want to know more about county activities to attend county meetings. Everyone is welcome.
- d. School Superintendent Johnson.**
- i. Enrollment update.
 - ii. Activity update.
 - iii. Planning meeting coming up should be attended. They are very important for the future of education in the county. Dates are September 6 and 8th. For more www.jaspercountyschools.net
- e. Natalie Hopson, Chamber Executive Director**
- i. Updated us on the many planned events. See www.jasperchamber.com
- f. Doug Weddell**



Updated us on the big music event that will be held at the fairgrounds August 25. Go to www.johnnyjunes.com for details and tickets. Should be a great **Montgomery Gentry** concert and it is important that the community support the event.

7. Motion to close meeting made by Ron Heltsley second by Doug Weddell, and motion passed.