



Minutes

Jasper Economic Development Inc. (JEDI) Meeting

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 1:15 P.M.

Jasper County Chamber Office
Peoples State Bank Room

124 S Van Buren St, Newton, IL 62448

Attending Scott Bierman, Larry Brooks, Jason Warfel, Doug Weddell, Mark Bolander, Brett Lessley, Andy Johnson, Beth Probst, Bill Weber, Natalie Hopson, Louis Ochs, Tom Brown, Mindy Hartke, Gina Kocher, Makenna Ochs, Madelynne Boldrey, Rachel Probst, Marlene Harris, and Ken Larimore.

1. Call to order, Chairman Scott Bierman.
2. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Larry Brooks, second by Louis Ochs, motion passed.
3. Program: CEO Class Facilitator Gina Kocher introduced CEO students. Makenna Ochs, Madelynne Boldrey, and Rachel Probst spoke about the recent trade show and other class activities.
4. Community marketing program. Mark Bolander explained the committee met and feel the Eagle symbol is great for county branding.
5. Monthly Updates
 - a. Ken Larimore, CED Extension Educator
 - i. The event center and medical facility projects are still progressing. I am working with the medical facility owners on TIF and EZ applications. The event center is searching for the perfect site. If anyone knows of 5-20 acres please let Ken know.
 - ii. The Newton biodiesel plant is now owned by the bank and we are searching for a national or international buyer to finally put the plant into production.
 - iii. Below are some of my Jasper County duties.
 1. Jasper Economic Development Inc. JEDI Top priority. Job creation, business retention and expansion B.R&E outreach, and improve quality of life.



2. Enterprise Zone Administrator
3. TIF Applications for City of Newton
4. Jasper CEO Board Member
5. Board member of South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Corporation (5 counties)

Appointed to serve by Jasper County Board in 2007.

6. Workforce Investment Opportunity Act WIOA

Appointed by Jasper County Board years ago. Meet quarterly in Effingham. Good to keep informed on job training programs for local businesses.

7. CANCELING- Board Member of East Central Illinois Development Inc. ECIDC (11 counties)
8. OPTIONAL-President of the Board of Southeastern Alliance of Illinois SAIL (9 counties)
9. Effingham Regional Incubator Network ERIN Board Member (sites in Effingham, Dieterich, Altamont and Newton)-to promote the Newton Business Incubator.

- iv. Some background on the economic development position in Jasper County. I was a Circuit Riding Economic Development Administrator for several communities like Dieterich, St. Elmo, Ramsey, and Farina. Helping them with their TIFs and EZ. Then in 2006 Bill Weber and Ed Mitchel tracked me down and asked if I would be the economic development director in Jasper for 2 days a week. Then a couple of years later, Bill and Ed talked to a friend in western Illinois about having a fulltime Extension CED for Jasper. I started in the Extension position in January 2007. JEDI was formed December 4, 2012. Now the Jasper economic development organization is changing again as I am retiring from Extension. I'm not retiring until the last day of July but wanted to give plenty of notice so we can re-organize and hopefully make JEDI even stronger in the future. We will be working on the reorganization details the next couple of months. I am not ever saying goodbye as you are all my friends and we can be friends forever. Ken appreciates all those attending that thanked him for the many years of working hard to promote community and economic development in Jasper County.
- v. Scott Bierman (Chairman JEDI), Mark Bolander, and Brett Lessley discussed the process of reorganizing JEDI with job description, open posting of position and hiring schedule. Ken volunteers to assist in transition anyway that is needed.



- b. Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton
 - i. Tractor Supply is doing well.
 - ii. Marketing Committee-see above.
 - iii. Mayors meeting-many pages of assets of Jasper County.
 - c. Jason Warfel, Jasper County Board.
 - i. Active shooter training continues.
 - ii. Gaming funds-apply now.
 - d. Andy Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
 - i. Very busy with year-end activities.
 - ii. Facility planning.
 - iii. Vocational education.
6. Comments from those attending the meeting.
- a. Bill Weber commented that it is imperative the City, County, and School all work together on economic development.
7. Motion to close meeting made by Brett Lessley, second by Jason Warfel, and motion passed.