

# Jasper County Economic, INC.

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 1:15 P.M.

**SPECIAL LOCATION:**

**MARILYN'S LIQUOR CABINET**

**802 S. Van Buren**

**Newton, IL 62448**



Attending: Ron Heltsley, Amber Volk, Tom Brown, Marlene Harris, Jason Warfel, Ben Bollman, Louis Ochs, Jack Thompson, Mark Bolander, Scott Bierman, Doug Weddell, Beth Probst, Andy Johnson, Mindy Hartke, Larry Brooks.

1. Call to order, Chairman Scott Bierman.
2. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Jason Warfel, second by Andy Johnson, motion passed.
3. Monthly Updates
  - a. Amber Volk, Executive Director
    - i. The new Dollar General is getting closer to finishing.
    - ii. I have had multiple people coming for help/concern about our lack of children's daycare availability. We are working on trying to find someone.

- b. Mark Bolander, Mayor of Newton
    - i. Work is being done to the bridge located near Panama Express. It shouldn't affect traffic.
    - ii. A new house is started in Five Aprils Crossing and a new one is completed.
    - iii. Queen of Hearts is going fantastic and is bringing money into the community.
    - iv. The Marketing Comprehensive plan is updated and should be revised more often.
  - c. Ron Heltsley, Jasper County Board Chairman
    - i. The County Board voted to use the current jail site for the new jail building.
      - 1. Conner & Conner will be doing an evaluation on the site and will be meeting with our design community.
    - ii. Next Jasper County Board meeting will be Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.
  - d. Andy Johnson, Superintendent of Jasper County Unit #1.
    - i. We are up and running to a great start.
    - ii. We did acquire property by the grade school to create a space for a bus line East of the school. Work to the property will be in the Summer. The house on the property will be demolished unless someone shows interest in wanting and moving it off of property.
    - iii. The new school lunch is amazing and we are hearing from multiple parents that their children are happy to eat at the school. Participation is up 20-30%, maybe more. OPAA will be hiring additional staff: 1 fulltime cook at the high school, 1 fulltime cook as the grade school, and one part time at both locations.
  - e. Scott Bierman
    - i. As the majority knows, our power plant survived the Vistra shutdown of 4 of their plants in IL. This is huge for Jasper County. There will be a meeting next week with a few selected people with Vistra.
4. Comments from those attending the meeting.
- a. Doug Weddell
    - i. The Fall Festival is next Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>. (Fall Festival flyer can be found attached to email.)
    - ii. The Corvette Funrun is Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>.
5. Motion to close meeting made by Louis Ochs, second by Jack Thompson, and motion passed.
6. Tour Marilyn's Liquor Cabinet. Owned by Bill and Marilyn Riggs. Store's Days and Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-10pm, Friday 9am-12am, Saturday 8am-12am, Sunday 9am-9pm. Store Phone#: 618-783-5050. Along with the wide variety of alcohol, come and enjoy the Gaming Room and the convenient drive-up window!
- a. The tour was given by owner Bill Riggs.
    - i. Bill Riggs
      - 1. Thank you for the help received through the Economic Development.
      - 2. Owned Marilyn's Liquor Cabinet in Olney, IL for 15 years.
      - 3. Newton store opened on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 and have local employees. We hope to be as successful as the Olney store. Business is gradually picking up.

4. Gaming Room is being played often.
5. Why come to Newton?
  - a. We were approached about purchasing the original property. After giving it thought and speaking with Mark Bolander who was very helpful and enticing, we decided to go ahead with the project. I also love the small community.
6. How did you come up with the name Marilyn's Liquor Cabinet?
  - a. It comes from my wife's name and I was not wanting to use mine (Bill). I wanted a name to appeal to the female demographic and it works.



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