

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
OF WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 1, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bolser, Cenova, Frame, Johnson, King, Parker, Robinson, Salazar, Turner, Zaleski

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tanner, Templin

**STAFF PRESENT:** Shaffer, Doty, Lindsey, Mitchell

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Thurlow, Kim – Ivy Tech Community College  
Crist, Duane – Indiana American Water  
Emery, Millie – Hometown Media Group  
Scherschel, Jeff – ITD Engineering, LLC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Vice-Chair Chad Bolser called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, Indiana to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021 via Zoom meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bolser stated the minutes from the February 1, 2021 board meeting were on pages 2-3. There are no corrections noted.

*Motion to approve February 1st minutes as presented by Zaleski, second by Parker. Motion carried.*

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**a. February 2021 Financials Report**

Zaleski reported we were under budget by \$15,064.76 MTD and under budget by \$11,357.38 YTD for February. Zaleski stated we are over in 2228-Computer Parts which will even out by year-end. We are over in 3373-Programming/Consultation as the vendor forgot to send us an invoice for Nov 2020, this will put us over budget in that line item at year-end. Lindsey indicated we received a bill from another vendor for \$1800.00 from 2020. Bolser stated executive committee had discussion about sending a notice in November to vendors asking for final invoices for 2021 before we close the books. Lindsey will add to September Executive Committee agenda for review and discussion.

*Motion to approve the February 2021 financials as presented by Parker, second by Frame. Motion carried.*

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Executive Committee**

Bolser reported the Executive Committee met February 25<sup>th</sup>. ITD Engineering has an EDIT grant request we will discuss under other business. The Restaurant Subsidy Program is not going as well as hoped. We will discuss with funders about how to expand the program to help more organizations. We hosted developer visits this past month for the Elder Beerman project and additional downtown development. Val will have additional information on these items in her report.

**V. EDC STAFF REPORTS**

**Lindsey** – Lindsey reported she completed normal financial work. Much of her time was spent processing the restaurant subsidy application packages and she completed the coursework for Applied Economic Development Research.

**Doty** – Doty reported the Marketing & Communication Committee met in February and discussed the Home in Wayne (HiW) campaign, the Chamber directory and digital ad, the Ady Marketing proposal and the HiW photo contest. Doty stated she got Shaffer scheduled to appear on the local radio stations to discuss the restaurant program. Doty previewed the HiW viewbook printed proof and showed the photo of Desmond Bane. The first drafts of the HiW testimonial videos are being evaluated and Doty thinks they look good. Doty reported the HiW photo of the week contest has had 3 winners so far and the campaign is going well. Doty reported the Ady Advantage marketing audit draft has been reviewed and some changes discussed. When complete, the plan will be shared with the marketing & communication committee for review. Doty indicated the Livability advertorial and the Hoosier Opportunity ad for the Highland Lake Golf Course scorecard are complete. Doty stated her focus now will be on the EDC's 2020 annual report.

**Mitchell** – Mitchell reported work by Reynolds Service Tech to repair field tiles to mitigate wetlands 2,5,6,7 is continuing. Mitchell stated she will work with Little River to get completion paperwork to IDEM. Richmond Sanitary District is still completing the flow monitoring study of Midwest Industrial Park (MIP) to see what existing capacity remains. Mitchell indicated the Grella Partners grant paperwork continues for the widening of Gaar Jackson Road. Mitchell worked with Shaffer on the three downtown developer visits. Mitchell reported she is working with the HIRE program through the Indiana Department of Corrections as a pathway for individuals to find work once they complete their sentence.

**Shaffer** – Shaffer reported we have received 13 applications for the Restaurant Subsidy Program. Eleven have been funded and the two that were not funded did not meet the 30% revenue loss qualification for the program. The qualification numbers may be reviewed for adjustment by the funding partners. Shaffer along with Commissioner Plasterer and other stakeholders are working to secure funding from OCRA's third round of grant funding to help communities. Wayne County will apply for \$250,000 within the next two weeks aimed at grants for small businesses. Shaffer reported the downtown developer site visits went well. One was visiting for the second time and included an architect and contractors. We are waiting for feedback from the group. Shaffer is working on the Broadband Task Force and the survey went live today. The results will help determine need for expansion and will help to secure state and federal funding likely for rural areas. Salazar asked how we will reach the population most in need. Shaffer will work with Salazar on ideas to reach this group. Shaffer indicated all five county schools will be sending to parents. Hard copies will be available at all public libraries.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. ITD Engineering, LLC EDIT Grant Application #21-204**

Shaffer reported ITD Engineering is a locally owned company located on New Paris Pike. They are requesting \$20,150.00 towards their investment of \$1.65M in new machinery and equipment. This will add 6 positions with an average wage of \$14.00 per hour. Jeff Scherschel, owner, stated the company is a custom job shop, in business since 2005, which has experienced slow, steady growth. They have installed \$1M in new equipment thus far with an additional \$350,000.00 ready for installation in six weeks. Shaffer asked Scherschel what local companies they work with, he indicated Richmond Casting, Mosey Manufacturing, Primex Plastics, B & F Plastics and Envirotech. Regionally they work with Owens Corning and Mull Technology. Shaffer reported they have received a ten-year tax abatement from Wayne County Council. Robinson asked what the company does. Scherschel replied they are a CNC machining shop. The customer submits prints and ITD then will lathe, mill, and grind according to specifications.

*Motion to approve ITD Engineering EDIT Grant Application #21-204 in the amount of \$20,150.00 by Turner, second by Zaleski. Motion carried.*

Bolser asked if there was any additional business. King asked about the housing study. Shaffer responded it is underway. We have reached out to Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge City, Fountain City and Hagerstown to see what available development ground is available. This information will be submitted to Tracy Cross for the study.

King asked as the representative to Cambridge City, what he should be reporting to their board. Robinson agreed with King as to being unsure of what to discuss. Shaffer indicated she will give a rundown to the board after each meeting for their use as need. Shaffer asked board members to please share the broadband survey with their employees.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Bolser adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, April 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**