

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 14, 2024**

EDC President Robert Forster called the meeting to order Thursday March 14, 2024 at 6 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present at the meeting were President-Robert Forster, Vice-President Tammy Dubbels, Secretary-Suzette Arndt, Dolores Mueller, Linda Blonn, Phil Anderson was absent.

EDC meeting minutes from February 8, 2024 were reviewed Dolores Mueller entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tammy Dubbels seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Thom Allison owner of Cronies Bar presented a Façade Grant to power wash and paint the building. The total cost of the project will be \$9,145.00. The grant amount that the EDC can approve is half the amount requested. Tammy Dubbels made a motion to approve the Façade Grant in the amount of \$4,572.50 Linda Blonn seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Mike Miller and Sgt. Kevin Young approached the EDC and requested if we would approve using the \$15,000 that we allocate for a purchase of a new police car, and approve for them use those funds to upgrade their Police equipment.

The Police department needs to upgrade their tasers, and computer systems using the CAD program, which are the same ones as the Porter County Sherriff's department. The tasers come with a 5-year warranty and can be replaced or repaired for free when needed. There is not a limit on repairs or replacement with the lifetime warranty. The tasers they have currently can no longer be repaired due to their age. Tammy Dubbels asked what is the oldest Police car they have, Chief Miller said the oldest one is a 2016 Ford, and that they currently have a new vehicle, and are waiting to get it fitted with equipment. Robert Forester asked if the EDC could reallocate the funds and Tammy Dubbels stated we can divert the funds only one time to allow for this.

The cost of the tasers will be \$36,160.00 and the computers are \$21,610.00. Tammy Dubbels also stated that the Town Council agreed to allow the Police Department to divert their funds of \$30,000.00 one-time and use it for equipment upgrades. The rest of the money needed would come from their Continuing Ed Fund and they are applying for grants as well.

Linda Blonn made a motion to reallocate the \$15,000 from the Police Vehicle fund for the Police to use to upgrade their equipment. Dolores Mueller seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

The Appropriation Report was discussed and the funds available in each account as well as our Capital Outlay Fund.

Tammy Dubbels brought up the park bids for the lighting at Drazer Park for the basketball court. The one from Sport Court is for \$16,740.00 which includes the 4 poles at 17.5 ft, the pole stands and 8 LED lights. The quote does not include labor or installation of the electrical connections. And would require hiring a separate contractor and electrician to complete the work.

Ellis Electric's quote is for \$22,249.75 which includes 4 20 ft. poles, install underground feed to each pole. Poles will be on a concrete base 24 inches above grade. Lights will be on a timer. The quote includes all labor and installation.

Bob Cauffman can remove the concrete basketball court and haul it away for the cost of \$2300 to get it ready for Ellis Electric.

Dolores Mueller made a motion to have Ellis Electric do the work for the Park Department in the amount of \$22,249. Linda Blonn seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Suzette Arndt brought up the camera for the Water Department for MCO to use to inspect our sewer lines when needed. The town has to pay out \$1500 every time the water department has to borrow a camera to use from another town. It would also benefit the town and the money that is spent every year for a camera could be put to better use for the citizens of Kouts and the townspeople would not have to wait until one is available for line breaks to be located. Cory Clarke (MCO) turned in the information from Utility Supply for a camera and he also brought information for a skid buggy system that the camera would rest on with a light attached for better viewing, it would help keep the camera lens out of the muck. Linda Blonn made a motion to approve the camera at \$9,448.62 and \$575.00 for the camera skid system, for the total amount of \$10023.62 Tammy Dubbels seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Suzette Arndt brought up that Site Services is an all-inclusive company that would remove the asphalt from the Town Hall parking lot, and haul away debris, upgrade the stone base and compact it, 3 ½ total of new hot mixed asphalt would be applied in 2 layers. They will restripe the parking lot and the apply the handicap symbols. They would also install a concrete apron at the front of the entrance to help with the load of the garbage trucks that come in and also a 520 sq. ft dumpster pad at 6 inches deep to protect the town lines underneath. The total cost to complete this would be \$54550. Tammy Dubbels recommended if there are funds available from Capital Outlay at the end of the year that they are rolled over to apply for the rear parking lot. Suzette Arndt made a motion to approve the bid from Site Services at \$54550 and Linda Blonn seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Lawnpro's new contracts were submitted, one for the bi-weekly mowing of the town lots located at Coyote Crossing for the months of April thru November at \$60 a month for a total amount of \$420.00. The maintenance bid for Town Hall which includes Drazer Park, mowing the four entrances coming into town, the electronic sign maintenance and cleanup as needed for the months of April thru November for the total amount of \$2180. Dolores Mueller made a motion to accept Lawnpro's bid for the maintenance of Coyote Crossing and the Town Hall, Drazer Park, entrances to town, and the electronic sign for the total amount of \$2180.

The town will have to be in compliance by 2025 to video town board meetings and put them online. To get the back room ready Jonathan Hackett Painting came and gave an estimate to repair the walls and to prime and paint the room, the cost of his estimate is \$1740 which includes labor, paint and materials. Linda Bonn made a motion to have Jonathan Hackett Painting, paint the board room at \$1740, Dolores Mueller seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Tammy Dubbels contacted Pulse Technology and they will be coming to give an estimate for getting the back room ready for compliance, this will include everything needed to complete the room.

Suzette Arndt brought up the electronic sign at the corner. It is constantly breaking down and repairs being made. We need to consider if the continued repairs are worth the expense or if a new sign should be gotten.

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President Robert Forster

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Vice-President Tammy Dubbels

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Secretary Suzette Arndt

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Dolores Mueller

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Linda Bonn

Mtg. Adjourned 7:14 pm