

DRAFT



Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2019

Public Meeting Room – 2nd Floor, Story County Administration Building
Nevada, Iowa

ATTENDEES: Martin Herr, Greg Schlueter, Jody Meredith, John Hall, Craig D. Henry, Dustin Ingram, David Thom, Steven Gast, Doug Miller, Amy Kohlwes, Jay Wilson, Jacki Meimann, Gayle Springer, Sonia Arellano Dodd, Jennifer Davies, Leanne Harter

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Drew Kamp called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of Agenda
John Hall motioned, Craig Henry second. Passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2019
Hall motioned, Steven Gast second. Passed unanimously.
4. Old Business
None.
5. New Business

a. Livability Promotional Discussion

Drew Kamp discussed the upcoming Livability publication. The opportunity to purchase space in the publication is still open. Drew has materials and information if there are questions.

b. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Discussion

As part of the adopted calendar and bylaws, the SCEDG and Board of Supervisors (BOS) are to meet annually to discuss the ongoing budget. The BOS allocation has increased over the past years, to the current level of \$110,000. Discussion among the group occurred as to whether that amount was adequate to meet the ongoing needs of communities and upcoming projects or whether an increase should be requested to the BOS. The discussion noted that amount was meeting current needs.

c. Review and Approval of FY2020 Project Funds Requests

Kamp reviewed the requests submitted. Communities present provided additional information and/or responded to questions from the group.

Cambridge – Request for \$2,500 for design costs for renovation of Opera House

David Thom reviewed the application. Jennifer Davies asked about ownership of the facility currently and in the future.

Collins – Request for \$2,500 for improvements to the community center and mural walk

Absent. Kamp reviewed the application with the group.

Colo – Request for \$2,000 for engineering costs for housing development

Amy Kohlwes noted the developer is interest in creating 33 lots. Gast asked if the City would own the land. Kohlwes responded that is likely and the sales prices would be form \$20,000 - \$25,000 each, however, all parties are still in discussions as to how to proceed.

Huxley – Request for \$2,500 for community promotion in Livability magazine

Craig Henry stated the opportunities for the use of the funds to promote southern Story County. Lauris Olson asked what message the city was hoping to share/call to action. Henry responded that it will provide opportunities to promote local businesses in the area looking to grown, lots for sale, allow business wanting to move to the community a way to reach potential employees, and give the message that we are in a good location and identify all we have to offer. Davies questioned how the magazine is delivered. Olson commented the price is high for the publication and suggested checking distribution. Dustin Ingram noted the digital marketing component (marketwatch.com). Olson asked if the ranking has to do with businesses and Ingram replied clarified that the ranking is very rigorous.

Roland – Request of \$2,500 for mulch for city parks

Jodi Meredith noted the total project costs will likely be \$8,000.

Zearing – Request for \$2,000 for radio upgrade for Zearing Fire and EMS services

Karin Davis said the amount requested was based on the initial costs from the vendor. Davies asked how many radios will be purchased. Davis responded that the total costs are approximately \$74,000 to cover 16 portable radios and 6 for vehicles.

Motion to approve project requests as discussed by Gast/Thom.

Discussion of the motion

Davies asked the BOS if requests for radios from other communities have been received. Linda Murken commented that the costs related to the StoryCom project remain a moving target at this point so the BOS is not in a position to know what funds may be available to provide financial assistance.

Kamp commented that if more projects had been requested that available funds, he would have concerns with the mulch request from Roland.

John Hall asked whether it would be better to wait until more information is known about the radios and wait until next year to decide such funding, setting aside monies from next year's project funds for that purpose. Murken questioned whether per capita funds could be used for radios. Kohlwes

commented communities are being required to commit by December 31 for the three years at 0% interest opportunity.

Olson commented that BOS may at any time ask the SCEDG to re-define economic development.

Vote: Motion approved with Henry abstaining.

Motion to re-allocate the remaining \$2,500 to base funds by Hall/Henry. MCU

d. Approval of Calendar Year 2020 Meeting Calendar

Motion to approve by Henry/Kohlwes. MCU

6. Community and County Updates

Slater: finished street projects; entering design phase of new library.

Kelley: no update.

AEDC (Drew): thank you for participating in the summit.

Story City: EBY close to completion; small expansion at American Packaging; new homes under construction.

Nevada: Burke expansion completion anticipated July 2020; Verbio well underway with their improvements; Main Street Iowa Program – application successful and community is now a Main Street community.

Zearing: very close to the bank building being finished; improvements to Praeri Rail Trail soon to start; clinic is doing great; “The Hill” purchased and now a restaurant and “pay at pump”.

Colo: Niland’s Café under new management; Wilson’s Auction nearly done; remodeling community center starting January 1

Roland: finishing sewer line project; pool project funding and work; new bridge construction.

SCC (Mike Cox): Praeri Rail Trail delayed with weather so completion anticipated in spring; HOINT is part of the Great American Rail Trail

Gilbert: final plats for new commercial and residential developments approved; lagoon project wrapping up; will be starting water plant project.

McCallsburg: finished water main project; new city clerk hired.

Cambridge: final IDNR approval for wastewater project; Opera House building abatement.

Huxley: acquired all easements for paving HOINT in town; 560th construction may be delayed because of weather; brewery scheduling open house in November; bakery open house in November; removing two old building on Main Street and renovating others; potentially 600+ new housing development lots; feasibility discussion of expanding the industrial park; city administrator retiring at end of year and new one beginning in December.

Maxwell: owner moving forward with development on northeast side and hopefully can be selling lots in spring; possible TIF district on south side of town around Dollar General and along some of Main Street to allow for façade improvements and downtown renovations; zoning ordinance refresh to make them more development-friendly.

Ames: MGMC received approval to sell bonds for improvements; Ames is currently updating the comprehensive plan; downtown parking study set to go before Council in November; potential development interest at the corner of I-35 and 13th; Prairieview Industrial site and installation of infrastructure next season; Grand Avenue extension making progress; Miracle League Field anticipated completion is third quarter of 2020.

Story County (Murken): Story County is accepting applications for various boards and commissions.

7. Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None.

8. Dates to remember:

- a. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 10 am – Roland volunteered to host and agenda items will include the budget discussion and Annual Strategic Planning.

Adjournment motioned by Henry, second by Meredith. Passed unanimously.