

**Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes**

**August 17, 2017**

**Community Center – Maxwell, Iowa**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions** – meeting called to order at 10:02 am. Welcome to Maxwell by Mayor Gast.

Attendees: Jennifer Davies-Slater, Amy Knowles-Colo, Brenda Dryer-AEDC, Greg Schlueter-Collins, Drew Kamp-Ames, Lynn Schulte-Roland, Marty Chitty-Story County, Scott DeYoung-Cambridge, LaVon Schulz-Nevada, Steven Gast-Maxwell, PJ McBride-Zearing, Craig Henry-Huxley, Sonja Arellano Dodd-Gilbert, Abby Huff-Story City, Karen Davis-Zearing, Jodi Meredith-Roland, Lauris Olson-Story County, Mark Jackson-Story City, Leanne Harter-Story County, Lynn Scarlett-Nevada Chamber of Commerce, Amanda Sharp-Progress Industries

- 2. Approval of Minutes from 5.11.2007** – moved by Kamp, second by Meredith, vote taken, all ayes.

- 3. Presentation/Discussion by Amanda Sharp Progress Industries – Work-related transportation barriers for all Story County rural residents and how to improve services for special needs clients within Story County.**

Amanda and Shelby sought input from the group on the need in their communities for reducing transportation barriers that may be keeping people from taking employment outside their rural communities. In general, all rural communities seemed to note the goal is to enhance transportation for all populations, not just special needs clients. Progress Industries has a grant to develop a plan should there be a strong need identified.

- 4. Review and Approve of FY 2018 Project Funds request (previously known as “pool” funds)**

Davies presented requests in the total amount of \$17,000 from 9 communities. \$15,000 in funding has been allocated to support project funds in 2018.

Moved by Gast, second by Henry to reduce all applications the following amounts with the resulting funding by community to be:

City of Zearing	\$2278
City of Cambridge	\$1778
Colo Development	\$778
City of Kelly	\$1278
Story City Development	\$778
City of Collins	\$2278
Nevada Chamber	\$2278
Ames Foundation	\$2278
City of Huxley	\$1278

Vote taken – ayes with two nays.

Jackson and DeYoung noted concerns that application funding amounts should have been prorated versus a flat rate taken from each application to fund all. Both noted concerns with Zearing application. Jackson expressed concerns with funding Collins application. Gast commented concerns are valid and questioned whether a better way to score and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors existed. Group members discussed options for prioritization of projects. Direction given to come back at a future meeting to discuss potential scoring criteria and benefits of such a program.

## **5. Community and County Updates**

- Gilbert: new café open with limited hours; old city shop up for lease; C3 zoning east of city hall may be used for part commercial development and part townhomes; Gretten paving project underway.
- Nevada: Lincoln Highway Days coming up; company that has been in Nevada nearly 30 years has merged with another one, and as a result a 60,000 plus square foot building is available; Brightbelt located in west park; DuPont has spent over \$400 million at this point with about 125 employees.
- Ames: Eastern Industrial Annexation Area is official, and parties are working with Alliant and Olson and Associates to master plan the area; Barilla's expansion should be starting any day; I-35/U.S. Highway 30 improvements underway.
- Kelley: Bar/pizza place is opening this fall; two new houses under construction; new water line is going in.
- Zearing: Zearing Days held at the end of July and benefit went well; work on the façade for the grant awarded by Story County underway.
- Maxwell: Old Settlers Day finished; city met with the developer on the north side of town; working on sewer redesign for new NPDES permit.
- Huxley: Preparing for Prairie Fest; new company moving into an 80,000 square foot building in Blue Sky Commons, with hopefully two other companies located there; new housing construction slowed for permits for remodeling increased three-fold; Iron Bridge development proposed on north side of town.
- Cambridge: storm sewer project completed; bricking outside of the community building and a December 1<sup>st</sup> opening is anticipated.
- Story City: road construction impacting community; Comfort Inn is sale pending; industry tour scheduled for 10/17: VF Outlets closing and school potentially moving football field there contingent on bond vote.
- Roland: last of lots sold in industrial park; new water line construction underway; road by the school modified to "one way"; discussions starting about new pool construction.
- Story County (Brenda Dryer): Story County Housing Trust Funding waiting on concepts to be approved; new school year and looking forward to K-12 programming including the SCALE program. (Lauris Olson): Lauris noted she is

attending IFA's housing conference and looking forward to bringing back information to the group.

- Colo: two lots lefts in business park; housing development is moving like a snail; school bond issue to be considered in September.
- Collins: old firehouse is sold and moving into new firehouse on October 2; old grocery store demolish being scheduled.
- Slater: new sewer line/expansion construction to the west underway; permeable paver project being done in park; 22-unit housing development breaking ground on phase one in September.

**6. Discussion/Organization of Community Tours/1<sup>st</sup> Impression Site Visits**

Jennifer noted that not all the community tours were completed and questioned how to approach finalizing the site visits and reviewing the outcomes. She asked that each group send final forms by September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items**

Leanne commented that AEDC had created a new logo for the group. It will be distributed for review and comment prior to the next meeting. She also noted the forms as required by the bylaws would be shared at the next meeting.

**8. Dates to Remember**

**9. Next Meeting – Thursday – October 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

The meeting will be held in the public meeting room at the County Administration Building in Nevada.

**10. Adjournment**