

Un-Adopted Minutes

Brooke-Hancock Regional Planning and Development Council

August 10, 2016

Present were:

Kevin Beynon, Weirton Transit Corp.
Mark Miller, City of Weirton
James Smith, Mayor of Windsor Heights
Gus Suwaid, WV Dept. of Highways
Michael Paprocki, Executive Director, BHJ
Barb Zimnox, Region XI PDC
Mark Henne, Weirton Transit Corp.
Linda McNeil, Mayor of New Cumberland
Stephen Maguschak, City Manager of Wellsburg
Jim Andreozzi, Brooke County Commission
Mary Jo Guidi, Representative of Senator Joe Manchin's Office
Norm Schwertfeger, WVU Extension Office
Patrick Surtherland, Mayor of Bethany
Sue Simonetti, Mayor of Wellsburg
Emiel Butcher, Micrologic
Hampton Cokeley, Representative of Senator Capito's Office
Travis Blosser, City Manager of Weirton
Marvin Six, BDC
Rob Hinton, Upshur County EDA
Rik Rickowski, Mary H. Weir Public Library

Mark Henne called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. He asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 1, 2016 meeting. Sue made the motion, Steve seconded. Motion carried. Mark then read the Resolution 2016-11 WV Development Office Annual Funding. Mike explained that this funding (\$31,363.64) was used to match our ARC and EDA funding. Norm made a motion to pass the resolution. Sue seconded. Mark asked for a show of hands on passing the Resolution. The Resolution passed with a margin of 13-0.

Mike gave an update on what was being worked on at BHJ, which included the EDA report, Brownfields grant, his trip to San Diego for the ESRI conference, Bad Buildings, the Property Rescue Initiative, GIS, the Strategic Action Plan, and the new CEDS, which is due June 30, 2017.

Mark then asked Mr. Gus Suwaid with the WV DOH to give the group an update on transportation projects in the region. Mr. Suwaid stated that two current projects were the paving and concrete replacement on US 30 in northern Hancock County, and the

Route 67 paving project in Brooke County to the Brooke County Line. They were also working on two bridge structural projects. Mr. Suwaid said that HDR is in the process of designing the US 22 to Harmon Creek project that would probably bid next year in the spring/summer. There would be a significant rehab process that would be started in the next week or two on this area to hold it over til next year. This is expected to last 6 to 8 weeks, and may incorporate a new high polymer concrete mix. Kevin told the group that he brought a bus to the meeting to show how much damage is being done due to the rough road. He stated that he is having difficulty getting the buses to pass inspections due to the damage.

Pat Sutherland thanked Mr. Suwaid and the DOH for some paving that was done in Bethany.

Also discussed was the Route 27/Route 2 intersection in Wellsburg which is in the very beginning stages. It is estimated at \$7.5-8 million and is not a program project as yet.

The group also discussed Route 2 in New Cumberland. At this time consultant selection is in process for the environmental/NEPA review. Then there would be 8-12 months for alternatives to be decided, then the project would go to the project selection committee to be added to the priority list for funding.

Mike mentioned that the next Brownfields Taskforce meeting would be September 14, 2016, at the BHJ office at noon. (This has since been moved to October 5th)

Mr. Rob Hinton, with Upshur County EDA then spoke to the group regarding a USDA Grant for broadband that they submitted this year. The group had requested that someone from Upshur County come and talk to us about the grant due to the need for broadband service in the Brooke/Hancock outlying areas and the availability of these grant funds. He explained all the drawbacks that they've had to deal with and rules that had to be followed and how difficult the application was. With him was Mr. Emiel Butcher with Micrologic, which is the company who helped with the grant and would provide the wireless internet service if the grant is obtained. They explained how the public and private partnership worked. He said that they are requesting the full \$3 million allowed by the grant, with a match requirement of 15%, the total funding would be \$3.45 million. Mr. Butcher described how the service would be provided, and that the service area must be contiguous, and would cover unserved areas in 3 counties. Following was a question and answer discussion. The group thanked them for coming and for the excellent information.

Mark asked if there was anything else that needed to come before the group. With no further business to address, Mark asked for a motion to adjourn. Linda made the motion. Steve seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.