



## **Minutes: Economic Development Advisory Committee April 10, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Economic Development Advisory Committee was held on April 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Schoonover Municipal Building with Carrie Wetherbee (Vice Chairperson) presiding, and Dana Hollinger as recording secretary.

**Board Members:** Gina Bertucci (absent), Carrie Wetherbee, Carl Wilgus, Beverly Brown (absent), and Joseph Memoli.

**Township Staff:** Supervisor/Admin & Ops Dir. Annette Atkinson, Patrice Dume, Economic Development Manager, and Dana Hollinger, Assistant Projects Coordinator

**Township Residents/Guests:** None

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm with Carrie Wetherbee presiding.

### **Minutes and Agenda**

- Joe Memoli motioned to accept minutes from the March 13th, 2017, Carl Wilgus seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- Carl Wilgus motioned to accept the April 10th agenda, Joe Memoli seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Correspondence**

- No correspondence

**New Business** None

### **Old Business**

#### **Costar Update**

- Patrice Dume explained that there was a meeting with Costar with Annette Atkinson and Gina Bertucci in attendance.
- Annette explained Costar is looking to have the township advertise on their nationwide website. The cost is a few thousand dollars with approximately 12 advertisers per month on the website. She expressed the township is interested in the metrics. Waiting on follow up of the media kit.

#### **Restaurant Week Update**

- Patrice Dume informed the committee that Miggy's Deli backed out of the Kick Off event. She mentioned that the River Room or Great Bear might step in.
- Patrice also mentioned the difficult part of Restaurant Week is getting deals from restaurants. The best results seem to come from those who she goes out and sits with. Patrice asked the committee to spread the word about Restaurant Week and the Kick Off event, and meet with any restaurants they are comfortable with to go over the program. Update on the participating restaurants: this year there are 15-16 participants compared to last year's 11-12. Patrice added that Beverly Brown

informed her Alaska Pete's will not be participating; she plans to follow up anyway. Gina is visiting Inti and Frank's Pizza; Carl is getting in touch with The Roost.

#### Schedule of Realtor Meetings

- Patrice stated she contacted Michael Baxter. They have a tentative meeting for May 1st or 8th.

#### Announcements

##### Chamber of Commerce, PA Department of Labor & Industry Luncheon

- Patrice spoke about the luncheon attended on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Key points from the event were:
  - Cathy, representative for the governor stated he wants to put more technology in manufacturing centers.
  - More money into education and vocational schools. She mentioned his feeling is you don't necessarily need 4 year degree to be successful.
  - Raising minimum wage to \$12 an hour in effort to increase the job market.

##### Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business Luncheon

- Patrice will be attending the luncheon, Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and will provide feedback at the next meeting.

##### Monroe County Gigabit Project, at ESU Innovation Center

- The Monroe County Gigabit Project, at ESU Innovation Center, is Thursday April 13th. Carl explained it is Broadband connectivity to Monroe County. Followed by a general discussion about broadband.

##### New Business in Price Chopper Plaza

- Patrice described a furniture store is opening and taking up two of the store fronts. Owner has not responded to any contact attempts; but they do have a sign up looking for employees. She expects they will open soon.

##### Frutchey Road Sewer Line – LSA Grant Awarded

- Annette informed the committee that the township was awarded \$200,000 of the \$230,000 they applied for an LSA grant. Also that the township is in the process of coordinating with American Water to put in a water line at the same time. General discussion went on about how this works. Annette explained they will. It is now an area township can sell sewer and Lerta in that area.

##### Township Recreation Facilities & Emergency Shelter Generator

- Annette explained the LSA grants which were not approved (the township applied for parks and emergency grants for generator at Whispering Pines.) Most notably, AWSOM's request for a generator for their cat house was approved, while the township's request for a generator for a Red Cross emergency center was not. The township will continue to apply.

**Public Comments:** None

**Next meeting date: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.**

