

## **Economic Development Committee Minutes**

### **October 25, 2018**

The Economic Development Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the following members present: Mr. Dave Dietrich, Mr. Bill Blue, Mr. Dave McDowell, Mr. Dick Schill, Mayor Garlich and Ms. Kim Breyley.

**Also Present:** Ms. Leslie McCoy-Economic Director, Ms. Joyce Porozynski, Mr. & Mrs. Hippely, Ms. Barba Rayburn, Ms. Norma Giardina, Mr. Ken Klima, Ms. Katie Thomas, Ms. Linda Smallwood, Mr. Seth Klepper, Ms. Kristen Klepper, Mr. Bob Giardina, Ms. Wendy Anderson, Ms. Ann Wishart, Superintendent Scott Hunt, Ms. Jessica Giardina-Finance Office, Mr. Nick Giardina-Fiscal Officer, Mr. Scott Klein, Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti, Mr. Ron Wiech, Mr. Sam Morrow and Chief Tucholski.

Pledge of allegiance was done.

Mr. Blue went through the way the meeting will be run. Explained that the EDC at the 9/20 meeting had questions for the school board and invited them to this meeting to ask those questions due to the fact that the EDC feels it is important to the education of our children.

**Agenda:** No additions or deletions to the agenda.

**Minutes of September 20, 2018** were presented for approval. Mr. McDowell moved to approve the minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Dietrich. All in Favor: Yeas (6).

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion with the Cardinal Local School District's School Board Members to discuss the pros and cons of consolidation and the results from the district survey:** Village Council member, Cardinal Local School Board members, and the economic development committee all were in attendance. Mr. Blue stated that the village has concerns regarding what the development of the new school in the Berkshire Local Schools, will have on the village of middlefield and Townships involved with the Cardinal Local School District. Mr. Blue gave a brief history of the consolidation steps. Ms. Katie Thomas shared more information regarding the decision to not go forward with the consolidation. The EDC committee, after reading the information that was board had at the time of the vote stated that they agree with the vote that the board made based on the information that they had. Mayor Garlich stated that he was concerned that the board had not brought the topic of consolidation back to the agenda once more information was available. Concerns regarding declining enrollment numbers that were presented and feels that at some point the school will be forced to join the consolidation; feels that the school should do it earlier than later so that the

district has some say in the consolidation decisions. Mayor Garlich stated that he met with the superintendent of the Berkshire School District regarding the consolidation. Ms. Anderson stated that the consolidation will be with just the Berkshire school district and that Kent State is only supplying the land to have the new buildings constructed on. The education requirements change every year and currently the state of Ohio recognizes the CCP Program but who knows what will be the changes in the future. Discussion regarding the decline in the enrollment of students. Mr. Giardina stated that he spoke with the Geauga County Auditor regarding what the tax would be for the consolidation. Mr. Giardina stated that a house with a \$123,600.00 value currently pays over 1,200.00 in the Cardinal School District. The same house value in Berkshire pays a little over \$800.00 and with the new building levy that same house value will pay just over \$900.00. Granted the Berkshire School District does have a 1% income tax. Mr. Giardina showed the board the average income and that the 1% would be roughly \$427.90 which is what could be saved on the property tax side. Discussion regarding the amount of debt the Cardinal school Board currently has. Ms. Rayburn asked the EDC how they feel. Several of the members stated that they are on a fact finding mission but feel that the board should be in open discussion with the Berkshire Board. Ms. Giardina stated that she has concern about the declining enrollment and with the finances of the school, she can't see how the school will be functioning if the enrollment decreases. Mr. Blue asked the Council members in the audience what their opinions are regarding the consolidation issue. Mr. Wiech stated that he feels that the board should be exploring all options. Mr. Morrow, Ms. Arganti and Mr. Klein also feel that maybe the board should revisit and explore that options that are available and what it is best for the kids.

Being no further business at this time the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

**PENDING:**

1. Storm Water
2. Airport
3. Job Incentives
4. Apprentice Program
5. W. High St. Strip Plaza