

**MINUTES  
HERMITAGE COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MAY 7, 2009**

The Hermitage Community & Economic Development Commission held a regular meeting May 7, 2009 at the Hermitage Municipal Building, Conference Room #302, Hermitage, PA.

HCEDC Members Attending: Rex Knisley                      Members Absent: John Holliday  
George Kraynak  
Bob Cucitrone  
Meg Grober  
Tony Pagliaroli  
Angela Palumbo

HCEDC Commissioner Representative: Bill Moder

Others in Attendance: Gary Gulla, City of Hermitage  
Jeremy Coxe, City of Hermitage  
Amy Gargiulo, City of Hermitage  
Joe Pinchot, The Herald

**I. GENERAL**

**A. Call to Order**

Rex Knisley called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

**B. Consideration of Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed from the February 5, 2009 Regular Meeting. Bob Cucitrone moved to accept the minutes. Tony Pagliaroli seconded the motion. All members approved.

**II. BUSINESS MEETING**

**A. Monthly Activity Report**

Mr. Gulla stated that the Monthly Activity Report was sent out electronically and has been put on-line for the benefit of the HCEDC and the Planning Commission. The report has been expanded to be more department wide, combining information from the Planning & Development and the Community and Economic Development Offices.

The Neighborhood Investment Program is moving forward. National Fuel and Aqua PA have both replaced new lines in the area, but their restoration work is not yet complete. The project will be completed by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Marcia Hirschmann is heading the Stull Farm Planning Committee. The group is looking at some of the possibilities regarding the use of the property.

Jeremy Coxe reported on the Highland Road Project Phase II which began in mid-April. This is a \$3.5 million project from PennDOT that includes \$529,000 from the City's Transportation Enhancement grant to build sidewalks. Some lane closures will occur throughout the summer. They have a pretty aggressive schedule and should be completed by the end of August.

Construction is moving forward on the Training and Workforce Development Building and is going well so far.

The City newsletter was delayed about a week due to the addition of information regarding the Summer Recreation Program and the City's new garbage contract.

**B. Community & Economic Development and RLF Reports – December**

The Revolving Loan Fund Repayment Reports were reviewed for March. All payments were current. For March the RLF program balance was \$147,913.61. Total available for loans based on projected repayments through the end of the year was \$233,772.53. The Landscape and Façade Improvement program balance was \$65,978.75. The total available for loans based on projected repayments through the end of the year was \$84,908.63.

George Kraynak moved to accept the RLF reports. Angela Palumbo seconded the motion. All members approved.

**C. Landscape & Façade RLF Request**

**- OM Namah Shivay, Inc. D/B/A Roadway, Inn**

A Landscape and Façade RLF request for \$20,000 was received. The applicant is OM Namah Shivay, Inc. and the company has already acquired the former Starlight Inn Motel on South Hermitage Road. The loan would be used to replace walkways that were deteriorating and taken off the building. The collateral for their request would be a second lien position on the real estate. Clarification is needed as to who the actual owner of the corporation is. The Finance Committee is aware that the operator would be the same as at the Comfort Inn. They have run hotels in the past and know how to project properly.

The new owner is cleaning up a facility that was vacant and an eyesore. They went through the proper permitting process to get an electrical service update. They needed a permit for the structural work being done and the inspector said they did everything they needed to do to proceed with these improvements.

The Finance Committee made recommendation for its approval. Bob Cucitrone moved to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the loan application. Meg Grober seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**D. 2009 CDBG Program**

Jeremy Coxe explained that no word has been received on the City's exact allocation or a deadline for the CDBG application. The City is expecting a 1% increase from last year's allocation of \$370,799. We have had all the public hearings and have passed a resolution. All that is needed is for the State to give us our official allocation number so we can submit the application.

The City has been given tentative guidance on recovery money. The CDBG program has about \$1 billion they are distributing nationwide on a formula basis to all their direct entitlements. Pennsylvania received approximately \$60 million. The allocation for the City of Hermitage will be about \$93,000 and it must be used within 180 days.

**E. Miscellaneous Information**

**- Congresswoman Dahlkemper's Office Lease**

**- Oh-Penn Regional Summit**

The City will house an office in the Municipal Building for Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper giving our constituents ready access to a federal office. Currently someone is here a couple of days a week, but their plan is to go to a five day a week working office.

The Ohio-Pennsylvania Interstate Summit was held April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was very well attended with over 150 representatives from as far a Chicago and Philadelphia. The final draft of the plan should be completed in the near future and a meeting is scheduled in late May to move forward with the plan. The audience response key pad used during the summit was instrumental in getting immediate feedback.

George Kraynak moved to adjourn the meeting. Angela Palumbo seconded the motion. All members approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Gargiulo  
Recording Secretary

Draft as of 5/14/09  
Pending Approval 6/4/09