

Clark County Board of Supervisors
Economic Development Committee Meeting
Thursday – February 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Schindler at 3:30PM in the offices of CCEDC – Loyal. Present were Fred Schindler, Dean Zank, Jerome Krempasky and Mark Renderman. Also present were CCEDC&TB Executive Director Sheila Nyberg and Board President Tim Swiggum. The minutes of October 15, 2015 regular meeting were approved as printed. M/S/C – Mark Renderman/Dean Zank.

Presentation updates of Clark County Economic Development Projects: Workforce Council Project –Recap of the Bus Tour for Kickstart your Career Project over 300 students and counselors participated. This is an important event important to our counties business retention/growth and school counselors/youth for their knowledge of career opportunities. Special academies (thru the Job Center/Workforce Resource) are being help for high demand career programs like CDL, CNA's etc. Expressed need to get CDL class info to Mennonite population. Discussion on need for programs involving the trades is crucial too. Mark Renderman explained the opportunity to work with Explorer Post and NTC to possibly start a Fire and EMS Academy for youth that would run as a summer school program.

Reviewed new jobs/careers listing - marketing piece that shows 586 jobs open (over next 6 months) thru 31 Clark County employers. CCEDC works with employers to bundle this info and push out thru social media and to our Alumni. 2015 Average Annual Unemployment rate was 4.4%.

Clark County Connectivity (Broadband) Consortium continues to meet and work on connecting folks in our county. Recap of 2015/2016 projects under the leadership of CCEDC&TB were discussed. 2017-2019 Visitor and Community Guide will be produced by fall of 2016. Countywide ½% sales tax year end for 2015 was \$1,820,881.96.

CCEDC will run 3 countywide tourism projects in 2016 – the “Arts In Clark” Studio Art Tour, the Bloomin’ Greenhouse Kickoff and Tour and the Clark County Harvest Moon Fall Tour. Each of these is designed to bring in new tourist to come enjoy and spend money in our county. A new marketing piece with all this info on is being produced and sent out in mass.

CCEDC&TB year end Budget for 2015 was reviewed. The Regional Business Fund that helps as gap closing financing for new and existing businesses is now back in play. The program and funding will be major part of CCEDC&TB marketing to get the word out again on how to use these funds.

M/S/C -Jerome Krempasky/Dean Zank adjourned meeting at 4:25PM