



Medina County Port Authority
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Medina, Ohio 44256

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Medina County Port Authority Board Meeting

January 7, 2009

Attendance: Port Authority Board: Ron Paydo, Robert Kenderes, Bill Hutson, Dean Harris, Bill Frantz, Laurie Price and Steve Hambley, Medina County Commissioner. MCEDC staff: Bethany Dentler, Sandy Neuman and Jodi Robbins.

Guest: Don Coy, Time Warner Cable.

Mr. Paydo called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Hutson made a motion to approve the December 3, 2008 Medina County Port Authority (MCPA) meeting minutes. Mr. Harris seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Paydo wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Financials: Mr. Frantz reported that the financials had been distributed for review and that the November and December financials should be ready for the next meeting. MCPA is in the black beginning in the new year due to not having to pay legal fees for the Medina County Fiber Network (MCFN) in 2008. Ms. Price motioned to approve the financials as reported. Mr. Dean seconded. All were in favor.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Hambley reported that the county would be undergoing budget hearings this week. Commissioner Hambley stated that while there are going to be some cuts due to the economy, he felt certain that Medina County was doing well in comparison to other surrounding counties. Commissioner Hambley also stated that the commissioners have already instituted several cuts to their budget to take affect immediately.

Old Business: In Mr. Gerspacher's absence, Mr. Hutson reported that meetings between potential perspective entities and OneCommunity have been taking place over the past few weeks to inquire about the needs for broadband connectivity of their companies in relation to the Medina County Fiber Network (MCFN) project. OneCommunity is compiling the data from the meetings with the companies and will present a report of their findings about the needs of schools, hospitals and businesses in Medina County.

Mr. Hutson reported that a new State program named "Connect Ohio" that has been created to asses the needs for broadband capabilities throughout the state. Mr. Hutson attended and informational meeting about Connect Ohio and met up with the program director, Dave Davidson after the meeting. Mr. Davidson was excited to hear about the progress in Medina County and asked Mr. Hutson to prepare a document outlining the progress and plans for the MCFN. Mr. Hutson distributed copies of that document to the Board.

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Mr. Hutson reported that in the Connect Ohio informational meeting, there was information about state stimulus packages and funding that would assist in building project such as the MCFN and Mr. Hutson encouraged the MCPA Board to remain in tuned with the timeline set by the state so not as to miss any opportunity for help in funding the MCFN.

Mr. Hutson reported that a letter of intent has been signed with OneCommunity and that OneCommunity's engineers had begun to review any possible access routes for the MCFN project. The data on all research could be ready to present as early as the end of February 2009.

Mr. Hutson also reported that the MCFN review team has meetings scheduled every other week through the end of February and that all meetings were open to the public.

Ms. Dentler reported that the Tri-C project was still underway but had slowed down a bit over the holidays. Tri-C has moved forward in researching financing options and been in discussions with the Brunswick High School about logistical details. Ms. Dentler reported that she had spoke with Mark Polatajko from Dr. Craig Foltin's office and received information that after a financing model was completed, Tri-C hoped to have a cooperative agreement among all parties. The cooperative agreement is scheduled to be prepared by the end of the month.the next meeting in February. Ms. Dentler said that she would remain in contact with those working on the Tri-C project.

Mr. Hutson reported that the Board has chosen to renew their marketing contract with CBRE for another year. Mr. Hutson stated the he and Ms. Dentler were planning to travel to observe and attend meetings with University of Akron representatives about funding ideas and marketing projects in other communities. These observations may take them out of state to Virginia. The observations will allow Mr. Hutson and Ms. Dentler to begin coming up with creative plans to be a more active partner with CBRE and University of Akron Medina County University Center (MCUC) in marketing the available land now known as Innovation Park that shares land and facility with the MCUC.

Mr. Hutson stated that he had contacted Mike Salay, Medina County Engineer , on any EPA issues concerning Innovation Park and that there has been no report from the EPA.

New Business: Mr. Paydo reported that there is a new and exciting project in the works for the City of Wadsworth. The project entails a new high school and facility that will house a recreation center, health and wellness center and center for adults. In addition to the construction of the multi-faceted facility, there will also be three new elementary schools built throughout the city. Dale Fortner, Superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools, stated in a past meeting about this project, that it is his desire to include the MCPA in the project's search for financing opportunities. Mr. Paydo stated that Chris Burnham of the Summit County Port Authority (SCPA) has also been attending meetings about this project. Ms. Dentler stated that there are still several agreements for the school and city to work out before the project could move forward. The ground breaking date supported by Chris Easton, City of Wadsworth, is set for August 1, 2009.

Ms. Dentler reported that she and the SCPA have been speaking with a business owner who is interested in moving his company from a nearby county to Wadsworth. The lease for his current facility will expire in March of 2009 and he is weighing option for financing with possibilities for support by the MCPA. Ms. Dentler stated that there would be more details to follow after some decisions are made by the business owner.

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Ms. Dentler reported that she was in the process of continuing follow up with the Connect Ohio program and that there is a meeting to be held in the Medina Library on January 8, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Ms. Neuman sent a survey to area chambers to gain feedback for the Connect Ohio project to gain information about county business's needs for broadband connectivity. Ms. Neuman stated that she had received positive feedback for those who responded to the survey. The next step is for the chambers to compile the data and prepare a report to be presented as early as April 2009.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Mr. Paydo adjourned the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

Please Note: The next scheduled MCPA meeting is **Wednesday, February 4th** at 8 a.m. in Balcony Room B (310) of the County Administration Building.