



Medina County Port Authority
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Medina County Port Authority Board Meeting

February 4, 2009

Attendance: Port Authority Board: Ron Paydo, Skip Trimble, Robert Kenderes, Bill Hutson, Dean Harris, and Steve Hambley, Medina County Commissioner. MCEDC staff: Bethany Dentler and Jodi Robbins.

Guest: James Baird, John Olberholtzer and Gary Sills, all of Chippewa Partners and Norma Fox-Horwitz, Summit County Port Authority.

Mr. Paydo called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Hutson made a motion to approve the January 7, 2009 Medina County Port Authority (MCPA) meeting minutes. Mr. Harris seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman's Report: None.

Financials: In Mr. Frantz's absence, Mr. Paydo reported that the 2008 end of year financials had been distributed for review. Mr. Paydo also stated the 2009 proposed MCPA budget was distributed and opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Paydo stated the 2009 budget is consistent with the 2008 budget based on assumptions that the revenue will continue at \$788 per month, \$20,000 for legal fees for the Medina County Fiber Network (MCFN) project, and that other expenses in 2009 are consistent with the 2008 budget. Mr. Trimble motioned to approve the financials and budget as presented. Mr. Hutson seconded. All were in favor.

Commissioner's Report: None

Old Business: In Mr. Gerspacher's absence, Mr. Hutson reported that meetings between potential perspective subscribers and OneCommunity were coming to a close and that the process now moving forward was to analyze the data collected. Mr. Hutson stated that he felt there was significant progress made in researching the needs of potential customer of the MCFN. The next scheduled Fiber Project Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 11th.

Mr. Hutson also stated that the organization, "Connect Ohio", has taken notice of the fiber project and may have ways to assist in construction with federal money allocated through the state for broadband connectivity projects.

Mr. Hutson also reported that he had spoken with Don Coy of Time Warner Cable and that Time Warner is interested in the possibility of utilizing the MCFN upon its completion.

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Ms. Dentler reported that she has discussed the project with Congressman Boccheri's staff, and Sandy Neuman attended an outreach session on January 30th in regards to the potential federal stimulus package to benefit "shovel ready" construction projects. Ms. Dentler stated that her next step will be to fill out a form for the state's website gathering submissions for federal stimulus funds.

Ms. Dentler also stated that she had discussed with the Fiber Network Committee plans to hold a community outreach meeting to provide an informational update to potential fiber customers, companies who participated in the Connect Ohio survey, local elected officials and other economic development partners.

Mr. Hutson stated that he was very pleased with the progress that OneCommunity and Mark Ansboury have made in collaborating with the MCPA for the MCFN project. Mr. Hutson also stated that Mark Ansboury has been writing letters on behalf of the MCFN to search for any and all federal assistance that the MCFN may qualify for.

Ms. Dentler reported that the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) project was moving forward without the financing potential from the MCPA. Ms. Dentler spoke with Dr. Craig Foltin's office at Tri-C, on February 3rd and was informed that the project is moving forward with financing through a certificate of participation program. This program is similar to a bond funding program.

Mr. Paydo thanked Ms. Dentler and Mr. Kenderes for their hard work representing the MCPA for the Tri-C project.

Mr. Paydo reported that preliminary financing summary for the Wadsworth Health and Wellness Recreation Center project had been distributed for review. This project has the potential for utilizing the MCPA / SCPA cooperative agreement financing approximately \$1.8 million through a revenue bond fund. Ms. Fox-Horwitz stated that the City of Wadsworth plans to break ground on this project in August of 2009.

New Business: Ms. Dentler reported that she and Mr. Paydo had previously met with Chippewa Partners to discuss financing options for a portion of the Chippewa Landing project. Chippewa Partners is inquiring about MCPA financing assistance for the Manor House portion of Chippewa Landing. This building will serve as a conference center for the proposed Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Gary Sills, Managing Partner of Chippewa Partners, gave a presentation on the project and entertained questions from the MCPA board members.

In other business, Ms. Dentler stated that she was doing research on the new Senate Bill 353 with legislation affecting Port Authorities. The legislation will take affect on April 7, 2009. Ms. Dentler stated that she would be seeking clarity and reporting back to the MCPA Board when she has a better grasp on how Bill 353 will affect our operations.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Mr. Paydo adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

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