



Medina County Port Authority
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Medina, Ohio 44256

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Medina County Port Authority Board Meeting

April 1, 2009

Attendance: Port Authority Board: Ron Paydo, Robert Kenderes, Bill Hutson, Dean Harris, Jim Gerspacher, Skip Trimble and Bill Frantz. MCEDC staff: Bethany Dentler, Sandy Neuman and Jodi Robbins.

Mr. Paydo called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the March 4, 2009 Medina County Port Authority (MCPA) meeting minutes. Mr. Hutson seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman's Report: None.

Financials: Mr. Frantz presented the year to date financial report. Hearing no questions or changes, Mr. Kenderes motioned to approve the financials as presented. Mr. Harris seconded. All were in favor.

Commissioner's Report: None

Medina County Fiber Network project: Mr. Hutson reported that the Medina County Fiber Network (MCFN) planned route has been presented and approved. The route focuses on Medina County with extensions into portions of Akron and Cuyahoga County. Mr. Hutson stated that it is still the plan of the Medina County Port Authority (MCPA) to own the fiber ring.

Ms. Dentler stated that while the state of Ohio has received the Port's request for stimulus finding, Ohio will not be the source of stimulus funds for the fiber project. Separate applications will have to be made for federal stimulus money, which is available to build fiber projects in rural as well as under served areas. Ms. Dentler also stated that OneCommunity is including sections of the Medina County Fiber Network (MCFN) project when it applies for federal stimulus money. Ms. Dentler reported that there may be additional funds available through the state of Ohio to share in all Ohio counties for broadband projects. Ms. Dentler stated that it would be helpful to acquire congressional support. Mr. Gerspacher mentioned that he would seek a potential rural endorsement. He stated that the MCPA should continue to share the information that the fiber ring is not being created to force small cable businesses out of the county, but to provide ample service for everyone who wants and needs it.

Mr. Hutson stated that the next major component of the MCFN project is to secure financing options. Mr. Hutson stated that the first financing option is for a traditional borrowing model and the second option will include grants and stimulus money that would diminish the need for county-backed bonds. The meeting scheduled for April 29, 2009 will be the next time that OneCommunity is offering opinions on the financing model.

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Wadsworth Community Center: Ms. Dentler reported that she and Mr. Paydo attended a meeting last month with the schools and its financial advisors and that the project leaders are awaiting the finalized cost projections. The project leaders have a planned meeting with construction management groups on April 3, 2009. Ms. Dentler also reported that a financial summit is planned for mid-April and that 5/3 Bank would be assisting with potential financing options.

Chippewa Landing: Ms. Dentler reported financing models are still being considered.

Senate Bill 353: Ms. Dentler reported that the bill was written to affect a specific port in the state but that due to the confusing language in the document, measures were being taken to clarify it. State elected officials plan to meet with port officials throughout the state to discuss the details of the document.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ms. Dentler stated that a resolution for continuing support of the Medina County University Center (MCUC) had been emailed out prior to the MCPA Board meeting for review. Mr. Hutson made a motion to accept the MCUC support resolution and Mr. Trimble seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Dentler stated that there were currently two applications in to the Medina County Commissioners for the MCPA Board position vacated by Mr. Berry. Interviews will be taking place in mid-April with the position planned to be filled before the next MCPA board meeting in May.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Mr. Paydo adjourned the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Please Note: The next scheduled MCPA meeting is **Wednesday, May 6th** at 8 a.m. in Balcony Room B (310) of the County Administration Building.