



Economic Development Committee
Thursday, July 9, 2020 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Cheryl Robertson called the Special Economic Development Committee meeting for July 9, 2020 at 10:02 AM.

Members present: Cheryl Robertson, Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher

Staff present: Jim Lenner, Bailey Klimchak, Jack Liggett, Marvin Block, Teresa Monroe

2. EDA Program; Feasibility Study

Bailey Klimchak presented Economic Development Assistance (EDA) Grant Information to the committee; the EDA program has \$225 million to be distributed among six mid-west states including Ohio to prevent, prepare for and respond to economic injury as a result of COVID-19. Ms. Klimchak's presentation provided an overview on the application process and criteria for how the grants would be awarded. The Village will reference the GROW Licking County Economic Development Action Plan; the action plan identified goals for the next five years. If the grant is received, the Village of Johnstown would like to use the money for two projects that will focus on economic development in the downtown area to revitalize and encourage investment; 1) Incubator Space (\$150,000) and 2) Economic Development Plan for the downtown corridor (\$50,000). Before applying for the grant, a feasibility study would need to be performed, it would need to be paid by the village and is not refundable by EDA award money; Ms. Klimchak estimates that cost to be around ten thousand dollars. Grant awards would cover eighty percent of project costs and the village would be responsible for twenty percent. There was committee discussion on partnership possibilities to pay the twenty percent. Ms. Klimchak looks for committee direction on whether or not staff should continue to move forward with these projects and the process of applying for funding and if so, a commitment to budget \$10,000 from the CARES Act funds to complete the feasibility study.

ACTION:	Chip Dutcher moved to authorize staff to proceed; Carol Van Deest seconded and all were in favor.
AYES:	Dutcher, Van Deest, Robertson
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

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3. Other Business

1. Continued discussion on spending CARES Act funds; hand sanitizing/washing stations on the square, barricades to divide outdoor seating areas, Plexiglas barriers for council chambers, contributing to the food banks to help the most people. Committee concluded it would be good to have an organization between the village and the end recipient so the village was not directly involved with individuals.
2. Mr. Lenner provided an update on project Mastodon
3. Ms. Van Deest requested a copy of the Trailhead Park Plan, Ms. Klimchak said she would email.
4. Reviewed Transportation Study Program grant and how it would help Johnstown; Mr. Lenner said anyone would be able to use the technology to get to and from jobs in Johnstown; it would give notoriety as well show the village is forward thinking. Mayor Dutcher said it is a plus this grant is in the hands of Johnstown.
5. Ms. Van Deest expressed her appreciation of all the time and work going in to all the grants being applied for by staff. Also thanked Service for the work in getting up all the new flags and banners downtown.

4. Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

