

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF SPRING GROVE

February 14, 2023

HELD AT QUAKER HILL CONFERENCE CENTER

7:00 P.M.

Board members present included Doug Brenneke, Jerry Catron, Zane Carrell and, Robert Erbse.

Not present, Annemarie Chasteen

Representing the Chamber of Commercial, Melissa Vance. Representing the County Council, Beth Fields.

Also, present was Andrew Sickmann.

Mr. Brenneke introduced Beth Fields to give a presentation on the cooperative use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Ms. Fields gave a brief presentation on the Federal ARPA fund distributions that Wayne County and several of its municipalities received to mitigate loss of income during the pandemic. She stated that the State of Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), developed the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP Initiative) that, with the cooperation and partnership with Ball State, IUE, Ivy Tech and, Purdue will work together to determine the best use of ARPA funds. If any communities in Wayne County qualify with a Low to Moderate Income average, they will be able to apply for an additional \$1M from OCRA.

Spring Grove received \$72,836.35 from ARPA. The Spring Grove Board committed 30% of these funds to a joint project with other municipalities in Wayne County.

What the Chamber and the County wish to do is develop a team that represents all the communities that received ARPA funds so approved projects, likely infrastructure, will be beneficial for all County residents and businesses.

Ms. Fields said there are three important questions. What are two or three issues or opportunities in Spring Grove that must be addressed in the next five (5) years? What are two or three things that we are willing to work on in the near future to make our community better? And, if there were one project that we could work on right now that would be beneficial for the community, what would it be?

Ms. Fields continues to share the vision of the group by describing four pathways that have been developed. They are as follows:

1. E-connectivity. Broadband. This could be hardware and education.
2. Quality of Place. Mary Walker from WC Tourism is chair of this pathway
3. Wellness. Shari Harlin from Reid Hospital is chair of this pathway
4. Economic Vitality. Valerie Shafer of the EDC is chair of this pathway.

She asked that the Board members answer the three questions to give the HELP initiative can collectively see what the County needs are for the future. Final decision for the expenditure of funds will be with elected bodies in each jurisdiction.

Ms. Vance also stated that community partners/businesses have also contributed to the project. First Bank Richmond, Sugar Creek, EDC and, Wayne County are among the fiscal partners.

The Board Members spent some time to collaborate on how to answer the above questions in relation to Spring Grove specifically.

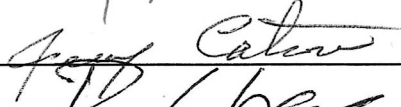
With no further business to discuss Mr. Catron made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Chasteen seconded. All in favor.

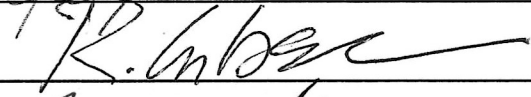
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Date 4-25-23

Member 

Member 

Member 

Member 

Member 