

Community Benefit Trust Meeting Minutes

February 23 at 7:00 PM

Location: Borough of City of Clairton Municipal Building

Meeting was called to order by President, Tammy Firda

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Borough of Lincoln	Tammy Firda (Present)
Borough of Glassport	Elaina Skiba (Present) Anthony Colecchi (Alternate/Present)
Borough of Port Vue	Debbie Thomas (Present)
City of Clairton	Lee Lasich (Alternate/Present)
Borough of Liberty	Janice Matyasovsky (Present)

Public Comments:

Sue Vigliotti, City of Clairton- She questioned how the representatives were appointed to the board and if we were all elected officials. Mrs. Firda explained that all representatives were appointed to the board and that Council members and Mayors could serve. She asked how many people currently serving on the board was elected officials. It was stated all but Mrs. Skiba from Glassport were elected. Sue Vigliotti stated the people on the Trust Board should be residents of the communities not elected officials. Mrs. Skiba explained the process by which Glassport appointed their representative. Sue Vigliotti questioned Lee Lasich when did the city decide at their Council Meeting who the representative would be. Howard Bednar, Manager for the City of Clairton stated it was in January 2020. Mrs. Firda stated meetings are advertised for the Borough of Lincoln and it's not uncommon for people not to show. A discussion was pursued regarding advertising the meetings.

Jacqueline Wade- City of Clairton – She stated her first objection there are no black people on the board for a community that is getting 26.7% of the grant funding. She wanted to know what is going on. She stated she would like to see minority representation in a community that's population was 70% minority. Lee Lasich explained that Denise Johnson Clemmons was on the board and resigned. Jacqueline said she understands but there is not currently representation now for minorities. She stated that a discussion should be had as to why with Council. Jacqueline questioned the agenda for the meeting and why Clairton had nothing on there. Mrs. Firda explained the process and that the meetings were quarterly. She informed her that a community is not required to submit every time only when they need something or have a project. Jacqueline questioned what the City of Clairton had submitted so far. Mr. Bednar explained that it was all in the minutes from Council Meetings. Jacqueline asked if he could tell her what kind of items. Mr. Bednar stated a dump truck, demolition, and a community center are all examples.

Cindy Meckle – City of Glassport and also from Vecan wanted to read a letter to the board and stated she would supply written copies if requested. She continued by reading the letter. She talked about the communities and the mission to supply air filters. She continued to explain they wanted to expand the program to all five impacted communities. She explained they are asking for the support of the Trust group to find the Citizens in need from these communities. She stated if anyone would like a copy of her letter, they could reach her at 41-389-0269. She explained if we work together more can get done for the communities and she was hoping they could count on our support.

Germaine Gooden-Patterson, City of Clairton, and Part of Vecan. She asked if there is any paperwork that states what the Community Benefit Trust Fund could be used for. Mrs. Firda gave a brief

explanation of how the funds worked and what they could be used for. She stated she had a document that she would provide for Howard the City Manager and they could request it from him.

Michael Airgood – resident of Clairton and the united methodist church pastor from Clairton and Glassport. He would like to see in writing how the process works for the Community Benefit Trust. He stated in looking over the projects that none of it is helping the air quality. He wanted to know what ideas would help the fact that we are breathing poisonous air and that our children's lungs are bad because of the air they are breathing. I am glad to see our maintenance crews and police are getting equipment but what are we doing to help the air? Mrs. Firda explained that several of the communities including Lincoln have gone to hybrid vehicles and other communities were on the agenda for this evening for purchasing hybrid vehicles as well. She stated that the program has been in place for multiple years and there are also other items that have helped with the environmental end.

Sinadogan - I work in the City of Clairton for the University of Pittsburgh My Job is to connect research and talk about the environment and the symptoms people are experiencing but also to analyze reports and policies that are being made. He states reports released by the trust are not transparent. He states that it shows it pays the company's financial health to run the fund, but we can't see what Boroughs are spending the money on unless we are coming to each meeting. He stated for example the Borough of Port Vue I can see how much money was spent but not what it was spent on. The Clairton Mill is being fined and 90% of these fines are going to you because of air pollution. He asked if there are any plans to earmark a 20-25% based on purchases the public request. He stated he is sure the purchases the Boroughs are making are saving them money. He appreciates us purchasing fire and police vehicles that are good for the environment, but that is not helping the indoor and outdoor fine particulate matter. He stated being a member of the public and as someone who works there, they understand that the monies are not going into someone's pockets but should be spent on what the public wants.

Motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2022:

Motion: Elaina Skiba

Second: Lee Lasich

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Presentation of Grants and CLOSEOUT Reports – Tammy Firda

President, Tammy Firda, asked each Board Member to give a description of the grant applications and/or close-out reports that were being presented by their municipality.

Tammy Firda, a Board Member for the Borough of Lincoln, presented two grant applications.

Anthony Colecchi, the Alternate Board Member for the Borough of Glassport, presented one grant application and three closeouts.

Debbie Thomas, the Board Member for the Borough of Port Vue, presented four grant applications.

Motion to approve Grant Application for the Lincoln Borough Volunteer Fire Rescue Company for the **Rescue Tool Purchase** for \$31,580.20.

Public Questions or Comments: None

Motion: Janice Matyasovsky

Second: Lee Lasich

All in Favor: Yes
Motion Carried

Motion to approve Grant Application for the Borough of Lincoln for the "Lights, Camera, Action" Project for the purchase of in-car and body-worn cameras for the police department for \$42,120.00.

Public Questions or Comments: None

Motion: Debbie Thomas

Second: Janice Matyasovsky

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Grant Application for the Borough of Glassport for **Equipment for the Volunteer Fire Department** for \$15,000.00.

Public Questions or Comments: None

Motion: Debbie Thomas

Second: Janice Matyasovsky

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to Close Out **Grant Application GL2022-16** in the amount of \$8,681.50 with expenditures of \$5,545.86 with the remaining \$3,135.64 to be used upon approval of another project.

Public Questions or Comments: None

Motion: Debbie Thomas

Second: Lee Lasich

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to Close Out **Grant Application GL2021-10** in the amount of \$50,470 with expenditures of \$56,907.50 with the additional expenditures of \$6,437.50 to be used from Grant Application GL2020-01.

Public Questions or Comments: It was announced this grant was used for demolitions.

Motion: Anthony Colecchi

Second: Lee Lasich

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to Close Out **Grant Application GL2022-14** in the amount of \$15,698.75 with expenditures of \$15,918.75 with the additional expenditures of \$220.00 to be used from Grant Application GL2020-01.

Public Questions or Comments: None.

Motion: Debbie Thomas

Second: Janice Matyasovsky

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Grant Application for the Borough of Port Vue for a **Polaris Mid-Size Utility Terrain Vehicle** for \$29,199.98.

Public Questions or Comments: None.

Motion: Lee Lasich

Second: Anthony Colecchi

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

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Motion to approve Grant Application for the Borough of Port Vue for the **Reimbursement of a Steel Garage** for \$16,632.80.

Public Questions or Comments: None.

Motion: Lee Lasich

Second: Anthony Colecchi

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Grant Application for the Borough of Port Vue for the purchase of **Two Hybrid Police Vehicles** for \$118,222.00.

Public Questions or Comments: None.

Motion: Anthony Colecchi

Second: Lee Lasich

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Grant Application for the Borough of Port Vue for the purchase of a **New Wacker Nueson RD12 Vibratory Roller** for \$19,500.00.

Public Questions or Comments: None.

Motion: Anthony Colecchi

Second: Janice Matyasovsky

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

Public Comments from Callers: None.

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

Motion: Debbie Thomas

Second: Janice Matyasovsky

All in Favor: Yes

Motion Carried

The next Community Benefit Trust meeting will be held on May 25, 2023, at the Borough of Liberty; applications will be due by April 25, 2023.

Submitted by:

Tammy Firda,

President, Community Benefit Trust