

**MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2007**  
**K-IRPC FULL COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**

Present:	Ronald Schmeirer	Councilman, White County Council
	Bernard Gick	Councilman, Benton County Council
	Rita Carpenter	Pulaski County Council
	Larry Wiley	Town of Wolcott
	Dan Blaney	KIRPC Attorney
	Fred Buschman	Reynolds Town Council
	Robert Gonczy	President, Morocco Town Council
	Jim Gwin	Jasper County Commissioners
	Herbert Arihood	Mayor, Rensselaer
	Gary Hendrix	White County Council
	Christine Chapman	Brook Town Council
	John Simmermaker	Winamac Town Council
	Jim Walstra	Jasper County Commissioners
	Jim Pistello	Newton County Commissioners
	Edwin Buswell	KIRPC Executive Director
	Lynette Carpenter	KIRPC Finance Manager
	Randy Mitchell	KIRPC Program Development Manager
	Belinda Gutwein	KIRPC Head Start Director
	Laurie Burton	KIRPC Secretary

Chairman, Larry Wiley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was via roundtable introductions.

**Prior Meeting Minutes**

Ron Schmierer moved to dispense with reading of the minutes of the February 22, 2007 Executive Board meeting and approve said minutes as presented. Bernard Gick seconded. Motion passed.

## **Financial Report & Claims**

Lynette Carpenter, Financial Manager, presented financial reports and corresponding claims for the month of March. Motion to approve the claims report was made by Bernard Gick and Jim Gwin seconded. Motion passed.

Lynette also reported that the group medical insurance renewal rates came in at an 11% increase. The agent had informed us that we had a 135% loss ratio for the 2006 year. There is a 6% increase built into the current budget. Lynette presented an option that KIRPC could choose which included increasing the deductible on our current plan. By increasing the deductible slightly, we would then have only a 4% increase in the premiums. The deductible would increase from \$5000 to \$5450 for Family (maximum out of pocket increase to employee = \$225.00) and from \$2500 to \$2700 (maximum out of pocket increase to employee = \$100.00) for Single plan users. This is a significant annual savings of \$10,849.84, and by choosing this option we would not have to raise the monthly rates that the employees currently pay. A motion was made by Herbert Arihood to increase the plan deductible and accept the 4% increase. Robert Gonczy seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Lynette also reported that the Dental Insurance renewal rates came in with a 4% increase (annual increase of \$821.40, increase budgeted \$987.24) and the Vision Insurance renewal rates came in with a 5.5% increase (annual increase \$195.00, increase budgeted \$214.92).

## **Community/Economic Development Report**

The Goodland Transportation Enhancement Grant has been submitted to INDOT. The grant requested \$771,000 for streetscape improvements along US 24.

Starke County submitted a planning grant for the San Pierre Comprehensive Plan. Edwin reported that he heard this week there was an issue with the income survey performed by Ball State and we are working on getting that cleared.

The EDA SYSCO grant was submitted in March. We received a request for additional information the first of April. We have sent the new information and are waiting for a response. For the state grant for the SYSCO project, we received the final Historic Preservation clearance letter this week. We believe that was the last information the state needed so we are expecting an award soon.

CFF grants will be awarded on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We have six applications submitted this round. We currently have seven possible grant applications for next round. Some of these may not be ready for next round as they are currently still in development.

The Town of Reynolds is considering applying for a Public Works Grant from EDA to help construct infrastructure for the recently announced ethanol plant. There may be some timing issues that will hinder their ability to apply for grants.

KIRPC is currently working on four planning grant applications. The Wheatfield Comprehensive plan should be submitted next week as we received today the final information we needed from the town. The Monticello Park Plan project is in the process of procuring a consultant for the project. The Town of Monon has requested us to submit a letter of intent for a downtown revitalization plan. We are also working with the City of Rensselaer on a park plan project.

The Town of Fowler has requested that we submit a grant application to the Indiana DNR for their swimming pool renovation project.

We have a meeting scheduled next week in Goodland to accept applications from homeowners for the proposed housing rehabilitation project. The town will be applying for a grant in August for the program.

We received training for our traffic counters from Purdue's LTAP program and we have begun traffic counting in Jasper County. For next year's program we proposed traffic counting for Benton and Newton counties.

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has requested its members to send a letter to our U.S. Senators expressing our support for continued EDA Public Works program funding. The proposed 2008 appropriations bill in the senate calls for an \$80 million decrease in EDA funding for economic development projects from \$210 million this year to \$130 million next year. If implemented EDA for construction projects will have decreased by 56% since 2001. Projects in the KIRPC region which have received these grants in the recent past include the Knox rail spur, Monon water treatment plant, Rensselaer water tower, and Wolcott water tower. We are currently applying for an EDA grant for the SYSCO project in Starke County.

The National Association of Development Organization is requesting a letter to the Senators regarding the 2008 Appropriations Bill which is calling for an eighty million decrease in EDA funding for Public Works projects. This would be a 38% decrease to the budget. Christine Chapman recommended that both KRIPC and each town send a letter in support of a non-cut to the state Senators and John Simmermaker seconded.

## **Transportation**

The first quarter drawdowns have been submitted to INDOT for reimbursement to the Community Services.

Transportation Manager, Randy Mitchell, indicated he attended the annual meetings for both Jasper County Community Services and Starke County Community Services this month.

INDOT has recommended that KIRPC organize a training designed around the smaller transit systems in domestic terrorism as well as potential criminal activity on the transit vehicle and workplace. Randy stated he would like to prepare a training during the summer months so more drivers would be available to attend.

Randy encouraged members to speak contact the senators to restore the PMTF rate to the .76% level due to the bill passed by Senator Meeks.

### **K-IRPC Head Start Program Report**

Head Start Director, Belinda Gutwein, reported Frances Callahan has been hired to replace Monica Sanchez, who was the Float/Translator. Ms. Sanchez had not been performing the job duties required of her.

March enrollment had five drops and three were replaced. Head Start does not need to replace the remaining two drops since the two openings are from the nine-month classes with fewer than sixty days remaining for the year.

Fred Furlano is the new Policy Council Chairperson as Jesus Garcia had to withdraw his child temporarily from the program. David Rivera will serve as the Vice-Chairperson. These individuals have written a letter to all KIPRC Head Start parents encouraging them to participate in the Policy Council and Parent Meetings.

The Director reported that a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is being offered from the Regional Office in the amount of 1.5 % or \$15,608. All the necessary paperwork has been approved and submitted to the Chicago office. The increase is retroactive to February 1, 2007, the first day of the new grant cycle.

The Director gave an update on the Roselawn Generations Center. There are no definitive answers yet regarding the completion of work at that site. There has been a request to negotiate a new contract with rent at \$600 per room which is the amount being paid at the Lincoln Elementary School. Newton County will not be able to make that determination until May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Directors of the Newton County Community Services and Head Start are attempting to work out the details of division of labor and the issues associated with sharing space. The Policy Council desires an inspection prior to making a decision to return. The Governing Board authorized that the Head Start Director could act as the negotiator to resolve these issues and to report back next month on the progress.

The Director gave a list of Regional Office updates from the Indiana Head Start Association Meeting in Plymouth. The 2007 goals center on the helping families and children be independent, promoting health and safety, and encouraging supportive communities and agencies to assist.

The HS Director also reported on the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children Conference held in Indianapolis. Two Policy Council parents attended along with twenty-four Head Start employees. The workshops were valuable to all who attended.

Motion to accept the Head Start Director's report as presented was made by James Walstra and Rita Carpenter seconded. Motion passed.

### **Chairman's Corner**

Chairman Wiley asked if there was any new business or information to be reported. Bob Gonczy thanked KIRPC Executive Director, Edwin Buswell, Project Manager, Randy Mitchell, and Newton County Commissioner, James Pistello for representing the KIRPC board in support at the informational meeting regarding the Willow Slough project. Mr. Gonczy indicated that Newton County is very excited to get started on the project.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Herbert Arihood and Bernard Gick seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be May 31, 2007 at 7:00 EST / 6:00 CST.