

In Attendance:

Bengy Swanson	Ginny Favede
Eddie D'Aquila	Justin Klempa
Don Mays	Nick Karras
Jim Conrad	Terry Lavorini
Jennifer Long	
Eran Molz	
DJ Eddy	
Doug Giffin (in place of Tom Connor)	

Co-Chair Mr. Swanson called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved as read.

Networking Luncheon in November - Mr. Mays gave a brief summary of the event and expressed his disappointment on how poorly it was attended by both Labor and Management and how good the presentation was. Mrs. Favede added how Monroe County contracts out their economic development to Jason Hammond who was our presenter. The entire group of elected officials were present, along with the schools, TV news and the newspaper. Mr. Swanson talked about how our intention of the luncheons was to visit all of the surrounding counties that we generally do business in and build relationships with the schools and elected officials in those areas. But it is important to be well represented by Labor and Management at these events. Do we need to change the day of the lunches because of the building trades? Point is we missed an opportunity that would have benefited us.

The next scheduled luncheon will be in Ohio Co., January 22nd at Undo's Crystal room at the Elm Grove location. Greg Stewart, Glenn Elliot, and Zack Abraham are scheduled to speak.

Motion made to make the Network luncheons quarterly by Mr. Molz, and seconded by Mr. Klempa and was approved.

Financial Report - Mr. Swanson discussed the more in-depth financial report that was presented to the board. Mr. Swanson also discussed his concern of certain BOD members wanting to take financials outside of Project BEST and create a budget. The board agreed that financials were to stay in-house and that if a budget was so desired, it should be brought in front of the entire board and discussed. Mr. D'Aquila remarked that he felt the co-chairs were doing a great job of using the finances in a much better way than in years past and see no urgency for creating a budget all of a sudden.

Main Street Bank - We have four CD's coming due totaling around \$800,000 and we need to discuss if it's a good business practice to support banks who directly oppose our views. While Project BEST does not involve itself in politics, we would prefer that businesses we do business with either supports our views or stay out of the political arena themselves. Mr. Molz felt that Main Street Bank directly went against our business interests, by not only failing to stay out of the political arena but chose to allow one of their board members to participate as Treasurer for Sen. Ryan Ferns. A discussion was had. The consensus was to allow the co-chairs to use their own judgment. Mr. Klempa asked if a motion and vote was needed to move the money out of Main Street Bank. Mr. Swanson replied that if no one had an objection, then the co-chairs would use his or her best judgment. No further discussion on the topic. Mr. Swanson mentioned that our rule of thumb is at least 1% or better out of our CD's. United bank will come due and will need to be changed.

Endowments - Mrs. Favede went back to the attorney, but since we do not have any documentation the attorney felt we should at least send a letter requesting it back and see what the response is. Ms. Favede is concerned with damaging relationships. Many of our colleges felt like it was a gift. If they keep the funds the attorney stated it would have to be opened up to everyone not just Project BEST and supporting unions. Mr. Swanson was more concerned with if the schools required to sign bid criteria. Mrs. Favede asked, what if the scholarship has to be used for a degree that has something to do with the trades. "Responsible Scholarship language." All agreed the institutions should be presenting a financial report. The Co-Chairs will discuss with the schools.

Property Research - Mr. Swanson suggested we obtain a map of the Highlands and figure out for ourselves who owns what up there. We continually seem to get the runaround.

Hobby Lobby - Case in point if you talk to Randy Whorton he says it was built on county land which falls under bid criteria but when you talk to Greg Stewart he says its private land. It appears they are trying to avoid bid criteria.

Cabela's, now owned by Bass Pro Shop, is proposing an expansion at their Highlands location.

Election Results – Ohio County's Don Nickerson is our newly elected county commissioner. Mr. Molz had a conversation with him. Commissioner Nickerson spoke highly of his opponent and hopes to continue the working relationship we had with Commissioner Klempa.

Safety Building- The Chairs discussed the relationships that were built with the city of Wheeling and the police and fire departments. Even though the bond issue was defeated, it did receive 54% of the vote but needed 60% to pass. The city is planning to move forward with the project and has already held the 1st of three meetings to incorporate a user fee to pay for the project. Mrs. Favede reminded the board that we do have bid criteria in place now with the city as a result of supporting the bond levy. Mr. Lavorini stated that he felt only 2 local companies would be able to bond that building.

A brief explanation was given to the board as to how the bond levy money was used and who performed an aspect of the support. Project BEST acted like a general contractor for the levy support. Wheel House Creative was hired to do the walking rack card and the signs. Warwood Media did the video. Lamar Advertising was used to design and produce the billboards. OVCEC did the yard signs. News Paper ads were designed and submitted by the co-chairs.

As a show of gratitude, both chairs were presented with coins that are only given to law enforcement, by the chief of police.

#### Committee Meetings

Good Will- Martins Ferry Winterfest had asked to have assistance in building a temporary stage for their event. The committee met on site to asses the project. A stage was erected at the cost of \$1200.00 and a Project BEST banner was displayed for the event.

Wheeling Bike Project – The committee along with Ms. Long met on site to asses the project. Ms. Long reported that some grating needed to be done by the city and weather needed to be better before we could get started. Minimal formwork, concrete work, and labor would be our scope of work. We are committed to that project once the weather breaks. The health plan is sponsoring the bike rental.

A draft application was presented to the board and will be reviewed by the Good Will committee.

A discussion incurred about the plaques that would be installed on these permanent projects. Don Mays made a motion to purchase 6 plaques, seconded by Jim Conrad, the motion passed.

Career Fair - Will be held on May 1st & 2nd at Wheeling Park ice rink, we are going to invite vendors that cater to the industry. We want NO trade colleges to have booths. No pipe liners this year. Trades that do not pay into BEST need to pay to set up a booth as has been done in the past.

New Business – Mr. Swanson stated that while no formal notice has been given, it appears that Kyle Brown representing the electricians in Steubenville, has dropped out of Project BEST.

Michael Finch has resigned from his position at BEST. A discussion incurred about the need for a full-time employee and exactly what responsibilities that employee should have.

The chairs reported that we have had discussions with the auditor and his work would begin after the first of the year. Mr. Swanson asked if anyone remembered what happened with Felton. Mr. Conrad explained Felton gave us a quote for his services and then tripled that quote after one month without warning. Mr. Swanson reported that a meeting was had with Felton and Jack would neither explain the reason or budge off the higher quote. Mr. Conrad then explained that we used his services for 3 months and the board voted to bring the financials back in-house.

Ohio County Bond work - Ms. Favede & Mr. Swanson have attended multiple bond meetings. Currently, there are about \$7-8 million dollars of work out to bid by CMTA. It was explained that CMTA is an energy provider out of Kentucky and will be overseeing this portion of the work. We are being told it doesn't fall under the bond levy and doesn't have to be bid out. CMTA has decided to bid the work out by invitation only. It was explained that Brian Harto of the BOE created the invitation list. We were also told that this portion will not fall under bid criteria. The chairs have requested a better explanation of why. The newest board member David Croft was also perplexed as well. He explained that its public money that they take out a loan on and then the public pays off the loan. The board of education does have final say on whom they will use.

The chairs suggested to the BOE that they hire Larry Skrzypek as the clerk of the works for these project. The BOE committed to that suggestion.

Ms. Favede expressed concern about why we have so many memberships for so many chambers. Since we don't pay/sponsor the dinners anymore what's the point of paying all of these memberships. A discussion was had and the board agreed to discontinue paying membership dues to any chamber of commerce organization.

Mrs. Favede shared a thank you note from WVU Hospital for Project BEST's commitment to the new children's hospital.

Meeting was adjourned