



Economic Development Committee

215 S. East Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

<http://www.macoupincountyil.gov/>

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

5:15 PM

County Board Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Armour, Starr, Dragovich, Klausing, Payne, Vojas (Remote), Thomas, Duncan

ABSENT: Emery

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Public Hearing: Closing Downstate Small Business Grant for Heinz Furniture
Clerk Duncan said this public hearing was for the downstate small business stabilization grant the Board had approved by the state last summer. The grant we had been awarded was for Gustav Heinz Furniture Company in Carlinville. They had received \$25,000 and Heinz had spent the full amount in the last month. They had spent the money on payroll costs for their employees. The funds had been kept in a separate fund from regular funds and the closeout reports had been prepared. There was a question of if there was any public comment. No comments were made. The public hearing was called to a close.
2. Update on Western Illinois Valley Regional Planning Commission
Jon Payne updated the committee on the Western Illinois River Valley Regional Planning Commission. This was the newly formed economic development commission between six counties in which we are the center county. The main benefit of the commission would be the ability to apply for federal grants. The main grants they are applying for is in Litchfield and Jerseyville. Payne said he had asked what the benefit to Macoupin County would be and since route 16 would be the key route between Jerseyville and Litchfield, there is the potential for real economic development in the county. This would be the main benefit for the county since the current commission, West Central Development, was unable to apply for those grants. There was a question on if that was indeed the case or if West Central Development was still able to apply for grants. There was also a discussion about how the dues for the commission would be paid. Other counties would probably like it to be based on population, but since we are the largest county in population but might not get the biggest bang for our buck, it would be nice if we could come up with a different way of collecting dues. Payne said the discussions were still very preliminary so he would keep the board updated and would be happy to hear any suggestionst hey may have.