



Warrick County Economic Development Advisory Council

Regular Meeting – December 18th, 2025 –3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jerry Aigner, Jenna Richardt, Paul Perry, Aric Pryor, Brad Pemberton, Ron Bacon, Courtney TenBarge, Stacy Tevault

Members Online: Lynn Lingafelter, Brandon Hayes

Others Present: Steve Roelle, Holly Gossman, Jacob Shelton, Herb Davis, Greg Richmond (online), Rick Reid, Sarah Eller, Brittany Daugherty

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Paul Perry called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
- II. Yankeetown Fire Department Presentation
 - a. Steve told the board the Yankeetown Volunteer Fire Department was at the meeting with their new vehicle that was purchased with a grant from the RDC. Dave Wallace thanked the board for the grant funding and went over the features of the new vehicle. He said the Yankeetown Fire Department is all volunteer and serves the area including Alcoa and Kaiser, Yankeetown Elementary School, and the Newburgh Water and Sewer Plants.
- III. Pathways School Presentation
 - a. Drew Gerth, the Principal at the Warrick Pathways & Career Center, gave the board an overview of the programs at the school and an update on the construction equipment purchased with their RDC grant. He said all sophomores visit the facility, and Pathways programs are open to juniors and seniors. He went over the new equipment for the civil construction program and shared that Pathways students recently competed in the Below the Hook competition.
 - b. Steve asked if they were planning to add any additional Pathways. Principal Gerth said they are planning to add early childhood education and software development.
 - c. Herb Davis asked why they selected civil construction as the first construction program. Principal Gerth said it was based on local job demand and available grant funding.
 - d. Jerry Aigner asked how many students are at the Pathways school. Principal Gerth said they have 162 students currently, which will go up to 198 next year. Brad Pemberton asked if they have space to accept every student who applies, and Principal Gerth said they don't at this point.

IV. Approval of Minutes – November 20th, 2025

- a. Aric Pryor made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 20th meeting as presented in the meeting packet. Courtney TenBarge seconded the motion. The November minutes were approved 10-0.

V. Financial Reports – December 2025

- a. Steve presented the EDIT financial reports for December and said there were no changes to the projections included in the meeting packet.
- b. Ron Bacon made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Courtney TenBarge seconded the motion. The EDIT financials were approved 10-0.

VI. New Business

a. Project Firefly Update

- i. Steve told the board Project Firefly will be coming to County Council for tax abatement for their proposed project in the North Warrick Industrial Park. He said the project is in a TIF district, so EDAC would need to recommend the abatement and RDC would need to vote to approve.
- ii. Steve said this project is a Japanese automotive interior component manufacturer that has several existing locations in the United States. He said we have a letter of intent for the shell building and the project is moving quickly. They would want to close by the end of January and be operational by May.
- iii. Steve showed the board a slide with the investment amounts for the different phases of the project and said due to the changes of SEA1, the company is only seeking a real property tax abatement. This would be a 9-year abatement, and the scoring information was sent to board members in an email.
- iv. Lynn Lingafelter asked if the employment numbers for 2028 were included in this abatement calculation. Steve said no, this would just be based on the numbers for the first phase of the project.
- v. Brad Pemberton asked if the company would seek additional abatements for the later phases of the project. Steve said yes, that would be their plan.
- vi. Brad Pemberton made a motion to recommend the tax abatement for Project Firefly as presented. Courtney TenBarge seconded the motion. The motion carried 10-0.

b. 2026 Department Projects

- i. Steve gave the board an overview of some of the major projects we want to work on in 2026. He added that if any board members want to be more involved, let us know.

- ii. Some of the projects we will be focusing on include public art and rebranding, updating the tax abatement process, parks and trails upgrades, and additional projects at the North Warrick Industrial Park.
- iii. Jerry Aigner asked if Lynnville Park is funded by the town or the county. Steve said it is funded by the town, but we have helped fund some projects in the past. Jerry said the park is an underused asset. Steve agreed and said we have been planning a county-wide parks meeting to foster better collaboration.
- iv. Herb Davis said we have discussed starting a grant program that would help fund local projects. Steve agreed and said we would need to discuss with the Commissioners and County Council.

VII. Old Business

a. Flood Sensors

- i. Steve said we are moving forward with the plan to help fund flood sensors for EMA. The State Board of Accounts recently changed the procedure for advertising appropriations, so we will need to wait until the February County Council meeting to ask for the funds. Steve added that Matt Goebel, the EMA Director, is currently working on a map of the sensor locations.

b. Warrick Bucks

- i. Steve showed the board some updated statistics for the Warrick Bucks program and said we still have some funds available for the current promotion.

c. Other Board Business

i. The Dominion

- 1. Jenna Richardt asked if there were any updates on The Dominion development. Steve said they are hoping to get started ASAP. He added that we are trying to have more frequent meetings with their project team.

ii. Aric Pryor

- 1. Steve told the board that Aric Pryor would be stepping down from the board due to time constraints. He thanked Aric for his service and said we want him to remain a resource.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Jerry Aigner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Bacon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:55 pm.