

TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK BOARD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Murray, Chairman

Joseph Wales

Matt Grubka

Don Lorentz

Dave Kaczor

Molly Barniak

Joseph Cox

Gene Majchrzak, Town Liason

Joann Litwin, Village Liason

Kathleen Creagan, Secretary

REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES September 8, 2020

Meeting commenced at 6:03 P.M.

Present:	John Murray	Dave Kaczor
	Matt Grubka	Joann Litwin
	Don Lorentz	Joe Wales
	Gene Majchrzak	Molly Barniak
	Joe Cox	No Visitors

This is the first meeting since Covid-19 began. No meetings were held during the months of April, May, June, July or August.

REZONING PROPERTIES: There are 13 properties to rezone. Suggestion is to start with five (not the stadium). Owners would be notified if contiguous with their property. Possibly set up all 13 and schedule a hearing for affected owners. John will schedule meeting with Remy, although he will be tied up with tax season and elections; Joanne said there will be no tie up with the election.

Don asked what John Bailey thought of all 13 recommendations at same time – so final decision is to pass thru the easy ones and then focus on the more troublesome properties. This would expedite the process.

Gene advised that the association of towns and mayors received word that there would be some grant money available regarding saving agricultural lands. Joanne, Hal and Remy will put a committee together to update the comprehensive plan which will be working in conjunction with the planning board. There will be a consultant list, ie, engineering. Remy will be the chairman of that committee. The idea of this plan is to retain the agricultural property and NOT industrialize it. Remy is in the process of the application which includes three criteria:

1. Where a town and village are working together to save as much agricultural land as possible.
2. There is a question of solar fields (OP does not have any; we do have solar panels on rooftops, highway garage, but none in fields).
3. How old is comprehensive plan – ours is 14 years old and being updated.

Those three criteria are in good standing with the county.

ECIDA PRESENTATION: Joanne had suggested getting presentations to include small business loans and facing the loan repayment. Don wanted to do a red ribbon cutting to reintroduce small business, but now is not a good time as many businesses are still not reopened. Possibly a webinar for people to join in. SBA will assist with loan information and be on a panel to lend information regarding the forgivable and non-forgivable loans. So many grabbed onto loans and were not aware that they could become a 30 year loan. Paperwork is

due on December 31.

Landlords were to hold back on collecting rent, BUT that does not mean it was forgiven. These businesses will have to start paying back loan AND pay current rent. Revenue is down almost 30% from last year, and this double payment will be difficult. Financial institutions are doing phenomenal.

Retail, restaurants and brick and mortar are small businesses and suffering. Banks have been profitable, but small businesses may not make it if there is a Covid resurgence.

Event would take a fair amount of planning and work. We need to plan a good time for it, so possibly end of January or February. Don will send a survey to chamber members to get their needs. It should be clear that we don't have all of the answers, but would try to give as much info as possible. Things are changing daily and information and programs are changing. May have to set up as a webinar vs. seminar so there wont be too many questions. Questions to be addressed, would have to be submitted in advanced of webinar.

Country club could be used with limited attendance (requiring a ticket) possibly stream it live.

The country club held a fund raiser using the tables for 10 and only seating 4 at the table. Temps could be taken at the door. Different agencies could be invited such as the SBA, county level representative, maybe not politicians. Joe suggested that Josh Obrochta of M&T may be willing to participate. Banks are better versed on rules and loan repayment process.

This seminar has changed course from 6 months ago – now the need is to focus on loans and small businesses.

ORCHARD FRESH STORE: Store vacancy may be filled – Molly advised that Benderson has a lease in place for a restaurant and grocery store. Probably not Dashes, more likely an Aldi or Trader Joe.

Fatteys and 1st Line are doing well. The Chamber is working very hard to get landlords to rent space. There is a possible tenant for the bowling alley; Ricotta rents are way too high. Comparing rents shows that East Aurora is average, Hamburg is lower and OP is lower compared to the north towns.

BIOS: Molly stated that she has a bio for Joe Wales and John Murray.

New Business: None

Public Comments: None

Executive Session: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Dave Kazor, 2nd by Joe Wales at 6:45 pm.