



## DRIVE Board Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Megan Brosious, Dan Knorr, Dave Park, Joe Kantz, Jeff Erdly, Jeff Reber, Jennifer Wakeman, Leslie Temple, and Sam Schiccatano

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Justin Ross, John Uehling, Jeb Stotter, Trevor Finn, James Pachuki, Bashar Hanna, and Chris Young

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Hope Lineman (Commonwealth University), Erica Mulberger (Executive Director of Advanced Central PA), Harry Lewis (community member from Northumberland), Tim Hippensteel (Project Manager), Amanda Craig Bradley (Business Outreach Manager), Aidan McDonald (Facilities Manager), Colleen McCollum (Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper)

Jennifer Wakeman introduced Hope Lineman and Erica Mulberger to speak on workforce initiatives in the region. Erica Mulberger presented first, she discussed Advanced Central PA and what they do. Advanced Central PA covers 9 counties Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union, Centre, Mifflin, Lycoming, and Clinton Counties a little over 5,000 square miles. Their target groups they assist are adults and dislocated workers, youth (14–24-year-olds), and opportunity youth (out of school youth). They also receive funds from Employment and Retention Network (EARN) which is for individuals who receive SNAP or cash assistance from the county assistance office. They run 6 PA CareerLink sites, and a mobile unit called The Link. They also cover 31 school districts; they have staff in 17 school districts where they will meet with students to assist in resume writing and internships. They are starting to pivot some of their focus to increase access to childcare in the region. Not having access to childcare is having a huge impact on the workforce in the region. The board and Erica discussed onsite childcare vs off site and the cost to run either option for employers. On-site childcare for employers is usually not an option due to the cost and licenses required to operate. Some employers will have emergency onsite childcare but not fulltime childcare. A lot more employers are trying to use already established childcare centers, they try to create a partnership with these childcare centers. Erica talked about justice-involved individuals and bringing them back into the workforce. They are trying to reduce stigmas for these individuals. Jennifer asked how people access your programs. Erica said people would use PACareerLink to access their programs and staff.

Hope Lineman presented on Commonwealth University which is offering solutions for workforce training in the region. They are changing the way education is organized, by changing the traditional 4-year degree schedule. Changing it to suit non-traditional students better, allows them to step in and step out of learning at their own pace. They also will be embedding micro credentials into the courses for these non-traditional students. They are also generating credit for prior learning, meaning that someone who has worked for a long time that involved some type of training that they had to complete will be included as credit towards their degree.

Discussion ensued about apprenticeship programs and the barriers for companies to implement these programs.

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Temple at 9:33am.

Mrs. Temple welcomed the board and moved to accept the last meeting's minutes.

**MINUTES:**

- June 7, 2023, Board Meeting: Motion by Jeff Erdly to accept the minutes, Megan Brosious seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dan Knorr presented the Treasurer's Report.

He highlighted the Budget Performance report we are on target for the year, and we are ahead with the total number of income due to the property sales this year.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Dave Park, seconded by Joe Kantz ; carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Property Committee:** Aidan McDonald presented the proposal from Core Design Group for the asbestos abatement and testing at the Sunbury Hospital property. The proposal would cost \$37,800.00 and work would begin in 4 weeks. Joe Kantz wanted to know if Core Design Group gave any indication on time and materials afterwards will cost. Aidan informed us that it would be at our discretion, since a lot of the management can be done myself. Plus, we will vet who gets the project after this initial work is done. Jennifer confirms this plan. Dan Knorr says Executive Committee is comfortable with this proposal and the cost.

Motion to approve proposal from Core Design Group made by Jeff Erdly seconded by Joe Kantz; carried unanimously.

**Broadband Committee:** Jennifer Wakeman presented the PA Broadband Development Authority, Capital Project Fund grant resolution. This grant is to improve access, affordability, and adoption of highspeed internet across the 5 counties. This will serve 2,300 locations who are currently unserved or underserved. We have received a \$125,000.00 Degenstein grant for 2024 to create a new shared library position that will be a Bilingual Digital Educator. Bloomsburg Library will be the home for that position. The Degenstein grant will be the match for the Broadband Grant. For the affordability standpoint part of the grant is to purchase 1000 CPE's, anyone who qualifies for the affordable connectivity program will qualify to receive the CPE free. We are looking to file the resolution; resolved that DRIVE and its representatives are authorized to file an application with the PA Broadband Development Authority for a COVID 19 ARPA Capital Project Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program that grant application is not to exceed \$4.6 million dollars resolved that the chair, vice chair, secretary, and executive director and any other such persons as the board such designates are authorized to execute and deliver such affidavits, agreements and documents as are necessary to fully execute DRIVE's obligations for the above grant application.

Motion to approve PA Broadband Development Authority, Capital Project Fund grant resolution made by Joe Kantz seconded by Dave Park; carried unanimously.

Tim Hippensteel discussed ConxxNE proposal to upgrade firewalls and switches to the DRIVE building for \$17,881.02.

Motion to approve ConxxNE proposal made by Leslie Temple on behalf of the Broadband Committee seconded by Jeff Erdly; carried unanimously.

Tim discussed Liberty Mutual Policy that will cover the network and all equipment. The policy is for \$17,735.00.

Motion to approve Liberty Mutual Policy made by Leslie Temple on behalf of the Broadband Committee seconded by Dan Knorr; carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Leslie Temple allowed Harry Lewis 3 minutes to share information and pose a question. Harry says Encina will be complying with all PFASS regulations. Harry asked if Encina has a design yet? Jennifer Wakeman said she has seen previous designs but hasn't seen a current design but when there is one, Encina will present it to the municipal planning commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

Leslie Temple adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

**NEXT MEETING:** The DRIVE Board meets again on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at 418 Railroad Street, Danville PA 17821.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Park, Secretary