



Economic Development Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, February 19th, 2026 (SCC)

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Matthew Cassidy		X	Michael Gorman	X	
Eric Myers		X	Jack Swain	X	
Michelle Griscom		X	April Venable		X
Joseph Crevino		X	Ken Robell	X	
Lou Pasquale	X		Jennifer Jones (Chair)	X	
*Julie Johnson	X		Julie Acton (Vice-Chair)	X	
Jim Pfeiffer		X	Rebecca Iacovone		X
Mark Valente		X	Carey Italiano	X	
Gunar Bergholz	X		Sean Sepsey	X	
Megan Flinn		X	Jake Buganski		X
Ed Ramsay	X				
Paul Collier	X				
Sean Brown		X			

* Michael Drees filled in for Julie Johnson

Meeting started at 4.32pm

Discussion of Letter

- The council discussed the draft letter to the commissioners in support of hiring professionals who specialize in railroad. The council unanimously approved the letter (Ed, Paul, and Sean abstained) with conditions of making changes to include other professionals and not limiting it to legal counsel.

COUNTY UPDATE

- Sean gave an update about the Film & Arts Festival. The sponsorship form is complete, and we are accepting sponsorships to go to the Community College Foundation.
- Sean gave an update about the glass factory. An MOU was signed with the City of Salem, and a Redevelopment plan is currently in the works.
- Ed mentioned that the county is currently looking for an railroad engineer and that is out for bid.
- Paul attended the tourism advisory council meeting held at Woodstown Central Railroad. Woodstown Central will be partnering with farms for agritourism events. Feb 28th there will be a Harry Potter event on the train.

MUNICIPAL/ STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

- Lou gave an update that the Penns Grove municipal building was just redone. There is also a cannabis facility going up on Virginia Ave.
- Mike G mentioned the college is doing well across many metrics. The college is seeking donations to help outfit athletes. The current cost to outfit a football player is \$1000. The

International Flame Working Conference will take place March 20-22. Glass artists from all over the world attend.

- Jack S mentioned SCVTS's adult ed enrollment is up. The SCVTS's Foundation dinner will take place April 9th, they are currently selling tickets. Their Work based Learning program are all outplaced in jobs. The workforce development program in Salem City is growing. Jack was also appointed as the President of the Vocation Technical Schools in the state. On a negative note, the Votech saw a 20% increase in healthcare costs like many other school districts, which is huge burden on the district.
- Jule A mentioned that Pennsville will be hosting 6 summer concerts this year along with movies at the park. They are still waiting on an opening date for Five Below and Big Air just received their engineering approvals from the township. Pennsville is currently working on their master plan. SCIA will have their shredding event on March 21st. SCIA is also offering nonprofits \$400 (up to \$800 total) to clean roadways twice per year.
- Jen J mentioned the Chamber will be having their Economic Forum on March 6th, it is free to attend. She also had a company reach out to the chamber from a dredging company who submitted an RFP for maintenance dredging of the Salem River- they were looking for information about lodging and lay down yards.
- Ken R mentioned the college will be hosting a Nerd Nexus event on March 15th for those interested in comic books, video games, cosplaying, ect.
- Carey mentioned that USDA and Via will be attending their next SJEDD meeting on April 6th for introductions and to present- all are welcome to attend. SJEDD's application is on their website for grants. Salem County Pollution Control is seeking projects to fund.

Meeting adjourned at 5.31pm