



**SSCVA Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
7770 Corinne Dr. Hammond, IN  
January 16, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

1. WELCOME

a. Roll Call

**In attendance:** Bonds, Brashier, Bushemi, Espino, Evans, Grisolia, Holmes, Maloney, Patena, Qunell, Roberts, Schuffert, Segarra, Spencer

**Absent:** Cash, Klideris, Lyles, Velligan, White

**SSCVA staff in attendance:** Stephanie Smith, Heather Becerra, Nicole Wolverton, Nikki Lopez, Kristin Taylor

b. Pledge of Allegiance

2. REPORTS

a. CEO Report

- i. 11-month streak of innkeeper tax increases, noting a \$600,000 increase from the previous year.
- ii. Attended the governor's gala and an event in Indianapolis, highlighting interactions with new Republican legislators and the importance of promoting Northwest Indiana.
  1. Two key bills are being closely monitored: House Bill 2012 23, which could benefit tourism through sales tax rebates, and House Bill 1292, which could establish a professional sports development commission.
- iii. Actively involved in community speaking engagements to promote positive developments in Northwest Indiana.
- iv. Noted that the Jean Shepherd Center in Hammond invested \$700,000, and the SSCVA will help with initial marketing efforts.
- v. Stated floor coding for the exhibit hall and gift shop will be done soon, noting the importance of the project for the building's maintenance.

b. CFO Report

i. Innkeepers

1. Record-breaking year for innkeeper tax collections, with a total of \$5.3 million and an increase in interest income to \$33,000.

- ii. Financial Update
    - 1. Gift shop sales were \$173,000 in 2024.
    - 2. The 2024 complete annual financial report is due in March, and the claims docket is higher than normal due to new deposits for air show contracts and capital improvements.
  - c. Approval of Claims
    - i. Motion made by Maloney to approve claims, seconded by Espino. Approved unanimously 14-0
  - d. Staff Reports
    - i. Included in board packet
- 3. OLD BUISNESS
  - a. None
- 4. NEW BUISNESS
  - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2024
    - i. Motion made by Schuffert to approve minutes, seconded by Grisolia. Approved unanimously 14-0
  - b. Approval of Picklemania Sponsorship and party event for \$15,000
    - i. Motion made by Grisolia to approve Pickleball Sponsorship, seconded by Brashier. Approved unanimously 14-0
  - c. Approval of Indiana Destination Development Corporation Contracts
    - i. ½ page ad in Travel Guide- \$8,997
    - ii. Brochure Lead Generation Ad- \$2,800
    - iii. Simpleview Aggregator- \$6,000
    - iv. Summer Co-op- \$50,000 (1:1 match)
    - v. Fall Co-op- \$10,000 (1:1 match)
      - 1. Motion made by Schuffert to approve five IDDC Contracts, seconded by Bonds. Approved unanimously 14-0.
  - d. Level 10 Floor Coating for Exhibit Hall, Gift Shop, and stairs -\$67,170
    - i. Motion made by Schuffert to approve Level 10 Floor Coating contract for \$67,170, seconded by Patena. Approved unanimously 14-0.
  - e. 2025 Airshow Contracts for Acts
    - i. Rob Holland Ultimate Airshows LLC- \$10,900
    - ii. Bill Stein Airshows-\$10,900
    - iii. Dacy Airshow- \$22,500
      - 1. Motion made by Bonds to approve three air show contracts, seconded by Bushemi. Approved unanimously 14-0.
  - f. Roberts Environmental Control Corp Contract for \$12,800
    - i. Motion made by Schuffert to approve Roberts Env. Control HVAC contract for \$12,800, seconded by Spencer. Approved unanimously 14-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Two (2) minutes maximum per person or five (5) minutes for a group spokesperson. Please keep your comments civil and constructive to policy issues. The Chair, at his/her sole discretion, may recognize individuals wishing to speak on different topics.

- i. None

- b. New Regular Meeting- Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025

6. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion made by Schuffert to adjourn, seconded by Spencer. Approved unanimously 14-0.