

# Montgomery County Board

## Economic Development Committee Meeting

### Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**Time:** 7:00 PM – Historic Courthouse Conference Room

**Members Present:** Chairman Heather Hampton+Knodle, Megan Beeler, Nikki Bishop, Ron Deabenderfer, Jay Martin, Dave Ronen and County Board Chairman Roy Hertel

**Others Present:** Sandy Leitheiser, Mark Joy, Ray Leubert

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval Arches Trail:** Mark Joy stated the NAGS group is working with the County to maintain the Arches Trail and that they have had a few small fundraisers to help raise money to maintain the trail. Ray Luebert reported they spoke with the Montgomery County Fair Board to have a Fun Walk/Tour of the Trail on June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Admission will be \$5.00 with \$1.00 going to NAGS and \$4.00 to the Fair Board. Mark Joy asked if it would be okay with the Committee if they could fundraise at this event with all the money they fundraise going into a special fund for the trail maintenance. Hampton+Knodle asked about a waiver for walkers to sign. Mark Joy explained that it would not be a problem because when NAGS took over maintenance of the trail, the agreement was that NAGS was to have a \$1 Million policy for liability insurance. Mark Joy reported that NAGS spent about \$1,000 in mowing and installing signs. Mark Joy thanked Hampton+Knodle for donating some field tile to the NAGS group for the trail. **Motion by Ron Deabenderfer, second by Jay Martin to Approve and Recommend to the Full Board that NAGS have the Ability to Fundraise for the Arches Trail Maintenance. All in favor, motion carried.**
2. **Update/Approval County Website:**
  - **Assess Input from County Website Survey to Determine Next Steps:** Hampton+Knodle reported there are a few technical difficulties will be worked on. There needs to be some communications to take place with department heads that need to be assessed and followed up by someone. Hampton+Knodle will check with the Personnel Committee to see who would have the skills for this project. County Clerk Leitheiser has offered that her employee Terri Miller could work on this project with the departments and the website if she were compensated.
3. **Update/Approval MCEDC:**
  - **Appointment of Jay Martin to the MCEDC Revolving Loan Fund Board:** Hampton+Knodle reported that the Revolving Loan Fund Board has had representation from the beginning of the Revolving Loan Fund. This person was originally the Chair of the Economic Development Committee. The position requires meeting as needed to review applications that come before the Revolving Loan Fund Committee. The RLF Board reviews the loan application presented by the bank. **Motion by Megan Beeler, second by David Ronen to Approve and Recommend the Appointment of Jay Martin to the Revolving Loan Fund Board to Represent the County. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - **MCEDC Meetings:** The annual MCEDC meeting was held Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Handouts were the MCEDC Annual Report and Existing Industry Report for 2013. Heather Hampton+Knodle congratulated Ron Deabenderfer and Megan Beeler for their past service to the MCEDC. David Ronen was elected as the chairman of the MCEDC. Ronen reported they had their first meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 and only four members showed up out of 11. Ronen will work with Executive Director Erika Kennett to get more people to future meetings. The next MCEDC meeting will be held Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:15 p.m. Ronen stated he will check current MCEDC Board members to ask about their interest in participating on the MCEDC Board. Ronen is sending out a short survey to MCEDC Board members to see what they want to do.
4. **Update/Approval Coal Severance Tax:** Hampton+Knodle reported this issue has been discussed at the Planning Commission meeting and Illinois is the only “coal” state without a Coal Severance Tax. The room and pillar method is not competitive and Macoupin mine is laying off people. Longwall extraction is more efficient and they can export vs. trying to compete with lower sulfur domestic coal for power plants.

5. **Update/Approval Fracking Meeting Notes:** Committee reviewed some notes from Bill and Ruth Schroeder regarding a meeting they attended regarding Hydraulic Fracturing on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
6. **Update/Approval Revolving Loan Fund Report:** Committee reviewed the RLF reports submitted by Erica Kennett for February and March 2013. They were corrected to reflect the \$150,000 that was added to the Revolving Loan Fund by the Finance Committee at the Full Board meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and reported in Full Board minutes. After reviewing the minutes and the reason this money was added, the committee discussed whether or not it should stay in the RLF since the Nokomis Business did not materialize. After a lengthy discussion, the committee decided to designate the \$150,000 back to the General Fund. **Motion by Ron Deabenderfer, second by Megan Beeler to Rescind the Motion Made at the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Full Board Meeting in the Finance Committee Report to Add \$150,000 to the Revolving Loan Fund from the General Fund. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Update/Approval County Employee Survey to ask How to Cut Expenses or Increase Revenues:** Committee reviewed the project proposal from Robert Morris University for the County 2013 Employee Survey for Cost Savings. The committee discussed the different methods of how the employees will complete the survey, online or paper or other options. Hampton+Knodle suggested to start the survey with an open question like "How could the County save money?" and then have ranking type questions. **Motion by Jay Martin, second by Nikki Bishop to Allow Megan Beeler to Run Point with the Project for Montgomery County Survey to All Employees to be Performed by Robert Morris University. All in favor, motion carried.** Notices will be placed in the employee paychecks to advise them of the survey. Beeler reported that the survey results should be ready by July 3<sup>rd</sup>. She, Deabenderfer and Hampton+Knodle anticipate reviewing the survey prior to the May board meeting to recommend the final survey instrument for full board approval.
8. **Update/Approval Planning Commission Update:** Hampton+Knodle reported that the Montgomery County Planning Commission met on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with review of land use goals as the primary topic. Beller mentioned the Commission's recommendation that the county write letters to federal representatives encouraging funding and that MCEDEC Executive Director Erika Kennett will be invited to aid in the review of economic development goals at the next meeting to be scheduled.
9. **Update/Approval Shop Local Resolutions Report:** Committee reviewed a couple of samples of Resolutions to Shop Local, and has questions regarding Home Rule versus Non-home Rule. The two samples are vague. Committee would like to refer some questions to the State's Attorney office.
10. **Update/Approval State Legislative Priorities Report:** Heather Hampton+Knodle has spoken with Representative Rosenthal on some legislative issues and he is going to vote for the 911 measure when it comes up. She has had some preliminary discussions on Coal Severance Tax. Heather met with staff in Senator Durbin's office in Washington and reported that he is interested in Coal Severance even though this would be a statewide program. Talked about a jobs program on waterways infrastructure and the idea that some of that public-private cost share could be used to match. Heather stated there are several legislative things in the works and some of this could feed right in to that and make it more popular. Other legislative priorities- Hydraulic Fracturing bill had been moving however speaker Madigan had introduced a requirement that they would have to have a qualified contractor essentially meeting a union requirement. This bill went back to rules for the moment and Heather hasn't checked on it in the last week.
11. **Update/Approval Economic Development Committee Time Change to 7:00 p.m.:** The Full Board will vote to approve the time change.
12. **Update/Approval Enterprise Zone Conference & Reporting:** Conference in Springfield. Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Chris Daniels and Heather Hampton+Knodle will attend.
13. **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> Agenda Items:**
  - Update on the Enterprise Zone Program
  - Heather Hampton+Knodle, Megan Beeler and Ron Deabenderfer will review the Employee Cost Savings Survey
  - Grainbelt Express Transmission lines wants to set up a meeting to discuss the project with officials.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** **Motion by Jay Martin, second by Nikki Bishop that the County Write a Letter to Support and Encourage Cleanup to Federal Representatives Asking that they Include the Superfund and Brownfield Sites in Montgomery County on a Priority List to USEPA. All in favor, motion carried.**

No bills.

Motion by David Ronen, second by Nikki Bishop to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as  
Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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