

Montgomery County Board

Economic Development Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 2nd, 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 Board Chairman Roy Hertel

Others Present: Sandy Leitheiser, Bill Purcell

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval County Website – montgomeryco.com:** Hampton+Knodle reported that she attended the Information Steering Committee meeting to discuss the County Web Site.
 - **Website Walkthrough and Comments:** Information Systems Manager Bill Purcell gave a presentation on the County website to committee members. The committee also reviewed a few other government websites for a comparison.
 - **Website Input from Committee Members:** Hampton+Knodle asked for input on functionality, look and feel and any additional items regarding the County website. Bishop stated the overall site is okay, but wants it to be current. Martin looked at other sites and stated that Jo Daviess County has a good site. The most important is first impressions. Ronen stated it must define who we are speaking to and the purpose. Beeler stated that she looked at Madison and Macoupin County's website and thought they were good websites. She stated we need to identify what is our goal on the County website. Is it to draw people in? Is it to satisfy transparency issues? Hampton+Knodle stated that transparency is the foremost goal in response to the Policy Institute rankings and the audiences will be determined after input from the county offices because functions vary greatly.
 - **How to Solicit Website Input from County Employees:** The committee discussed the need to send out a survey to Departments asking for input on the County website. Offices will be asked "what are your frequently asked questions," are there any changes to be made, wish list of things to add, suggestions on how to update information efficiently and other. In order to be transparent, the Officials will be asked what they want on their website.
 - **New Changes/Additions to the Website:** The committee discussed adding the following information to the website as it becomes available: Reports for the monthly Board Packet, County Board meeting calendar "year at a glance," updating board members and their committee assignments, budgets and audit reports.
2. **Update/Approval MCEDC:** Ron Deabenderfer reported that the MCEDC Executive Board meeting scheduled for January 3rd has been cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, February 7th at 4:15 p.m. The annual meeting will be held in March.
3. **Update/Approval Appointment of David Ronen to MCEDC:** It is within the MCEDC bylaws for any Board member to go to MCEDC. Deabenderfer is currently the president and will not run for a second term as president.
4. **Update/Approval Appointment of Ken Nimmons of Litchfield to Workforce Investment Board:** Ken Nimmons has shown an interest and would represent Montgomery County. **Motion**

by Jay Martin, second by Nikki Bishop to Recommend the Appointment of Ken Nimmons of Litchfield to the Workforce Investment Board. All in favor, motion carried.

5. **Update/Approval Appointment of Jo Ann Keele of Nokomis to West Central Development Council:** Check with State's Attorney about paying mileage for people who represent the County at liaison meetings. **Motion by Megan Beeler, second by Dave Ronen to Recommend the Appointment of Jo Ann Keele to the West Central Development Council. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Update/Approval Montgomery County Planning Commission:** Chairman Hampton+Knodle stated that she has contacted Ed Banovic to see when their next meeting will be held. They could continue to meet at the U of I Extension office. The Annex Conference Room would also be available for meetings if they choose that location. Commission members will be canvassed to set the best meeting dates.
7. **Update/Approval Grain Belt Expansion:** Kansas to Indiana – high voltage lines. To service Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and East and end up in Sullivan, IN. Regulatory work in Illinois is done. 2015 is projected construction. There is no information on upcoming meetings in Illinois.
8. **Update/Approval Committee Members' Economic Development Goals:** Megan Beeler reported that she has been researching a couple of projects that may potentially go through Montgomery County. The Grain Belt Expansion is a project to install High voltage lines from Kansas to Indiana. There is no information on upcoming meeting in Illinois.
9. **Update/Approval February Meeting Agenda Suggestions:**
 - Develop a survey for offices to complete regarding the County Website.

No Bill reported this month.

Motion by, Nikki Bishop, second by Jay Martin to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.