

# **Montgomery County Board**

## **Economic Development Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**      **Time: 7:05 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

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval County Website Survey:** The Committee reviewed a draft of the Survey prepared by Chairman Hampton+Knodle regarding the County Web Site. The Surveys will be sent out on February 19<sup>th</sup> to all Department Heads and they will be asked for Frequently Asked Questions and other suggestions for the web site. The surveys will need to be returned by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and the committee will review the results at their March meeting. Information Systems Manager Bill Purcell will come to the Economic Development Committee in March.
2. **Update/Approval MCEDC:** MCEDC Board meeting is Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. Deabenderfer reported a budget will be presented and voted on. The annual meeting will be held in March. Ronen stated that he met with Erika Kennett last week and will also go to the MCEDC Board meeting.
3. **Update/Approval Central Illinois Economic Development Authority (CIEDA):** Heather Hampton+Knodle reported that she will be attending a CIEDA meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> at noon.
4. **Update/Approval Planning Commission Meeting Date:** The committee reviewed a list of possible meeting dates and chose two. The first option for the meeting will be Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the second option will be Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Chris Daniels will check with a few of the voting members to see which one of those dates would be best and report back to the committee.
5. **Update/Approval Committee Members' Economic Development Goals:** Heather Hampton+Knodle asked each committee member for one goal they have for the Economic Development Committee. Nikki Bishop stated that her goal would be to try and find a way to keep good paying jobs here and to recruit businesses with quality jobs. Jay Martin stated that we need to find a way to attract businesses to our County. Dave Ronen stated his goal was business recruitment. Megan Beeler stated that she would like a better understanding of what this committee's purpose is and asked if it is this committee's purpose to support the MCEDC? Ron Deabenderfer stated that he would like to see the County have a full time Economic Development Person to serve the needs of the County. Heather Hampton+Knodle stated that she would like to set policies that comprise the incentives and data to support Economic Development. MCEDC is to focus on business recruitment, business retention and expansion. Roy Hertel stated that it would be nice to have an Economic Development Director with an office that would work for the whole County. Need to pick out one target business and go after it. The committee discussed the need to work together with Economic Development people in Litchfield and other towns.

6. **Update/Approval County Priorities to Share with General Assembly:** Examples: 911 raise rate on cell phone lines to compensate for the number of land lines that have been disconnected; general things like continued funding of township road and bridge program; on-time payments and full reimbursements for schools, hospitals and healthcare providers; encourage retrofitted/scrubber equipped Illinois-based coal-fired plants to use Illinois coal. Heather Hampton+Knodle is researching a coal severance tax.
7. **Update/Approval Governor's Rural Affairs Council:** Heather shared information regarding Chamber's Marketing Outlets for Farmers Markets.
8. **Update/Approval Grain Belt DC Transmission Project:** Chairman Hertel had a conference call regarding the Ameren transmission line.
9. **Update/Approval Rural Development Conference:** Rural Development Conference will be held March 6-7 in Peoria, \$165 plus \$77 hotel rate. Committee reviewed the agenda.
10. **Update/Approval March Meeting Agenda Suggestions:** Committee discussed the following suggestions for their March meeting. Shop local resolutions. Website. How can County save money? Planning Commission update. MCEDC update.

David Ronen stated that he had a few questions from Tonya Flannery from the City of Litchfield.

- 1.) What financial assistance from the County is there for a potential business in the Litchfield area?
- 2.) Is their County Financial assistance for Infrastructure for another Business Park.
- 3.) Land search user fee included as free tool for Litchfield. Ronen will get a better explanation of this request.

Motion by Nikki Bishop, second by Ron Deabenderfer to pay the bills. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.