

# **Montgomery County Board**

## **Economic Development Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**      **Time: 7:00 PM – Historic Courthouse Conference Room**

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

**Others Present:** Sandy Leitheiser, Chris Daniels

1. **Update/Approval County Website:** Chairman Hampton+Knodle stated that this is an ongoing project and asked Clerk Leitheiser if the Departments' surveys have been reviewed to see how much time it will take to complete them. Clerk Leitheiser will talk with the Personnel Committee regarding the suggestions for the County website that were turned in by all the departments.
2. **Update/Approval MCEDC:** Dave Ronen reported that the MCEDC Board of Directors met last Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:15 p.m. Committee Chairman Hampton+Knodle reported that a lap top computer has been donated so that the GIS data can be downloaded on it for Eric Kennett. Ronen sent a letter out to MCEDC meeting with a survey regarding board member participation for meetings. Ronen also stated that he would like to set up four different committees within the MCEDC. The committees will be Member Recruitment, Business Retention, Business Attraction and Workforce Development. The MCEDC board is also considering going to look at LLCC or some other college to see if there is some apprenticeship clerical assistance available for Erika Kennett. The MCEDC will have their board meetings every 2 months. The next meeting is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 4:15 pm.
3. **Update/Approval Revolving Loan Fund Report:** The Committee reviewed the Revolving Loan Fund report for each of the three businesses.
4. **Update/Approval County Employee Survey to ask How to Cut Expenses and or Increase Revenues:** Megan Beeler shared a "draft" of the Employee Survey for the Committee to review and discuss. The 2013 Employee Survey for Cost Savings Ideas was prepared by Robert Morris College Students in Chicago. There will be a memo explaining the survey process in the employee pay envelopes on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Megan will make some revisions to the survey and get to Daniels to get out to the rest of the committee members. Employees without email access will get an opportunity to complete a hard paper copy. Employees with email access will get two reminders to complete the survey. A link will be provided for the employees to go on line to complete the survey. The survey will be available on-line for two to three weeks.
5. **Update/Approval Coal Severance Tax Report on States:** Hampton+Knodle reported that there has been no movement on this issue and the coal severance tax report will be in board members' packets for the bull board meeting.
6. **Update/Approval Planning Commission Update:** A meeting that was scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> will be cancelled and rescheduled. Daniels will contact Erika Kennett to get a date at the end of May that she will be get contact the Planning Commission members to pick another date where Erika Kennett will be available to attend.

7. **Update/Approval Fracking:** Heather reported that the “Hydraulic Fracking” bill is currently being held in the rules committee.
8. **Update/Approval Legislative Breakfast:** Ronen reported that 150 people have signed up for the Legislative Breakfast at Lincoln Land Community College on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
9. **Update/Approval State Legislative Priorities Report:** Heather reported that a letter was drafted to our local State and Federal Representatives regarding the importance of the Eagle Zinc site getting cleaned up.
10. **Update/Approval Enterprise Zone Conference Report:** Hampton+Knodle stated that she and Daniels attended the Enterprise Zone Training Conference on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Springfield. Daniels reported that there were 20 amendments to the Enterprise Zone Legislation that was explained in the training. Some emergency amendments took place in April. The sales tax amendments will take place on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Hampton+Knodle is sending a letter to DCEO with some concerns regarding the new legislation that will be made part of the public hearing that was held by DECO on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Springfield. Hampton+Knodle also stated that we will be inviting the Enterprise Zone Mayors to the Economic Development Committee meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, to go over the Enterprise Zone changes and County EZ statistics. GIS Coordinator Mary Purcell has been asked to get the municipal EZ maps ready by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 so they can be shared at the Mayors meeting.
11. **Update/Approval Economic Development Committee Date Change:** The next committee meeting has been changed from June 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, **May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**
12. **Update/Approval Clean Line Energy:** Heather Hampton+Knodle reported that she, Chairman Hertel and Betsy Wilson from the States Attorney office will meet with two representatives from Clean Line Energy on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the County Board Room.
13. **Update/Approval Other Business:** Heather reported that a meeting regarding a Litchfield business will be scheduled for a later date. Clerk Leiteiser stated that our Job Study Consultant Ron Duncan was in the news recently for his efforts with fracking. Heather Hampton+Knodle stated that she has been in communication with the Director of West Central Development regarding our appointment of Ken Nimmons to the Workforce Development Board and his availability to be a voting member on that board. Hampton+Knodle stated that she has pointed out reasons why Nimmons should be a voting member and is waiting for a response from West Central Development. The Committee discussed Joe Gasparich’s suggestion regarding inviting County Mayors to a Full Board meeting as a good will gesture to introduce officials and services. Hampton+Knodle suggested a “Welcome Packet” that explain how we intersect and would include information on 911, nuisance ordinances with animal control, liquor and gaming licenses, Enterprise Zone and other County services.
14. **June Agenda Items:** Economic Development Budget.

Pay Bills: None submitted this month.

Adjourn: Motion by Jay Martin, second by Megan Beeler to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

Time: 8:35 PM.