

Montgomery County Board

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 4th, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM – County Board Room

Members Present: Chairman Heather Hampton+Knodle, Megan Beeler, Nikki Bishop, Ron Deabenderfer, Jay Martin, Dave Ronen

Members Absent: Board Chairman Roy Hertel

Others Present: Sandy Leitheiser and Lindsay Wagahoff

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

- 1. Update/Approval MCEDC:** Next Meeting will be Thursday, January 9th, 2014 at 4:15 pm in the Conference Room. Lindsay Wagahoff reported that Jamie Hires has been hired as the grant writer for MCEDC. Tobin Ott has been hired for 20 hours on a trial basis to do the newsletter and to post Facebook information. There are six new members that have joined the MCEDC. Wagahoff also reported that she attended an Economic Development five year, long term planning meeting at DCEO. There are four municipalities that have interest and participated in a Webinar regarding a grant that is available for abandoned buildings. Committee Chairman Hampton + Knodle learned that the County has not received any communication from West Central Development regarding our priorities that were to be made to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy document. Hampton + Knodle stated that we have been waiting for revisions to be made to the document since last December and that she has had some discussion with Mike Sherer in September regarding this issue. Hampton + Knodle asked Wagahoff to get some of this information as she is communicating with Communities. The MCEDC will schedule the Annual Meeting in March 2014.
- 2. Update/Approval Revolving Loan Fund Report:** Committee discussed the Revolving Loan Fund Report that was prepared by Lindsay Wagahoff. Hampton + Knodle stated that she received a couple of phone calls from restaurants regarding their con-compliance with the new food ordinance. They have to address issues and were told to contact the County for money to help them comply with the new food ordinance. Hampton + Knodle talked with a few banks and addressed the Coordinating Committee to see about creating a “micro revolving fund loan” in order to help businesses with a smaller loan that would be a low interest rate and the loan would be paid back quicker. The County does not have the authority to be the direct lender, so the business would still have to go through a bank. The other thing was that we can’t set up a program that is directed towards a certain business. Beeler stated that a loan for this purpose could not be pushed through in 30 days in order for the business to comply with the Health Department’s Ordinance. Wagahoff stated that payments are being made on the remaining RLF loans. The business that was in bankruptcy has been sold by the bank to a church and wrote off the loss. The Committee received and will review a document prepared by Ron Deabenderfer with his comments regarding the questions from the Revolving Loan Board. Amanda Cole also sent a response for the Committee to review regarding the RLF Policy and Procedures. Hampton + Knodle will take the responses and draft a document to the RLF Board. Lindsay Wagahoff gave an update to the committee regarding a meeting she had with Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson regarding the RLF Policy and Procedures. Jay Marten stated that Perhaps Betsy Wilson could help write the suggestions for the RLF Board.

3. **Update/Approval Mineral Trust Fund:** Hampton + Knodle shared a document with her thoughts for a mineral trust fund that she drafted in 2011. The idea would be for a rainy day fund. This would be a separate fund with the primary intention for Economic Development long term in Montgomery County. Hampton + Knodle asked Committee members to review and write out some comments to share with the committee next month. Beeler shared some information regarding the Finance Committee trying to identify a percentage of the coal money coming in. Finance Committee discussed how much would be set aside and when to set aside money after the general fund goal is met or to set aside money now.
4. **Update/Approval Central Illinois Economic Development Authority:** Hampton + Knodle reported that she called the CIEDA Executive Director regarding the status of a bonding project. Hampton + Knodle will get a background sheet regarding CIEDA so committee members will know what this organization is and what they do.
5. **Update/Approval Planning Commission:** Hampton + Knodle stated the Planning Commission met on November 21st and worked on the transportation component of the Plan. Beeler stated that she received a large map from the Sheriff's department that gave a lot of information on dangerous intersections, roads, rail road crossings, etc. Engineer Smith would like a copy of this map so Beeler will take everything to Mary Purcell to compile the map. Engineer Smith would like copies of the accident reports from the Sheriff's department. The committee will be discussing Goal #3 - Workforce Preparation Task Force and the difference between the Workforce Investment Board. The Planning Commission will review all the recommendations and make a summary to present to a Coordinating Committee before it goes to each committee. The Full Board will then need to make a resolution to amend and accept the Comprehensive Plan updates and changes. The next meeting will be in February.
6. **Update/Approval Economic Development 2014 Committee Meeting Dates:** Hampton + Knodle stated that the original committee meeting date for June is OK and wanted to know if the committee wanted to change the October meeting date to a week earlier. After discussion, the committee approved to meet on June 4th and October 8th, 2014. **Motion by Ron Deabenderfer and second by Dave Ronen to change date back to the June 4th. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Update/Approval Other Business:** None at this time.

There are no bills for this month.

Motion by Jay Marten and second by Megan Beeler to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.