

Montgomery County Board

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 7th, 2014

Time: 7:10 PM – County Board Room

Members Present: Chairman Heather Hampton+Knodle, Megan Beeler, Ron Deabenderfer, Jay Martin, Dave Ronen and County Board Vice-Chairman Mary Bathurst

Members Absent: Roy Hertel and Nikki Bishop

Others Present: Sandy Leitheiser and Lindsay Wagahoff

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval State of Industry Report:** MCEDC Executive Director Lindsay Wagahoff will present the State of Industry Report at the June Full Board meeting.
2. **Update/Approval MCEDC:** MCEDC Board meeting dates are: May 8th, July 17th, Sept. 11th, & Nov. 13th at 4:15 p.m. in the Conference room. The Small Business Development seminar was held at LLCC on Tuesday, May 6th. There were 26 people that pre-registered and 20 people showed up. The next Small Business Development seminar will be held next September at LLCC.
3. **Update/Approval Legislative Breakfast:** Will be held Monday, May 12th at 8:00 AM at LLCC.
4. **Update/Approval Planning Commission:** The next meeting date is set for Thursday, May 15th at 5:30 PM in the Annex Conference Room. Discussion will take place on the Grain Belt Transmission Line and a complaint regarding coal dust in the Schram City area. There will be an IDNR Hearing on June 4th, 2014.
5. **Update/Approval Planning Commission New Appointment:** Committee will discuss at their June meeting.
6. **Update/Approval Revolving Loan Fund Report:** The Committee reviewed the RLF client reports and one loan has been paid off and one client made two payments in April.
7. **Update/Approval Revolving Loan Fund Policy & Procedure Manual Changes:** Heather Hampton+Knodle and Lindsay Wagahoff met with Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson on Tuesday, May 6th, 2014. The Committee reviewed and commented on a draft of the policy that includes revisions recommended by Betsy Wilson. There is one section regarding “Default” that is still being worked on with Betsy Wilson. Once the revisions are complete, the draft policy will again be presented to the RLF board for approval before the final draft is presented to the Full Board.
8. **Update/Approval Adoption of 2014 Legislative Priorities and Input:** The committee discussed a letter that was sent out by Chairman Hertel to state and federal representatives that included the list of our legislative priorities.
9. **Update/Approval Econ. Dev. Fund/Developing Guidelines for Long-Term Improvement Fund:** Hampton+Knodle shared a report with the revised data from the survey that was submitted to board members regarding funding in the capital improvement fund. There were 13 county board responses that gave a percentage of how much of the coal royalties should be put in the

three categories. The committee discussed a report that Chairman Hertel presented at the Finance Committee that proposes how the coal mine royalties would be distributed into the three funds. There would be an automatic \$100,000 put in the Operating/Maintenance fund each month and then the Rainey Day and Capital Improvement fund would then share the balance on a 50% split. Mary Bathurst stated that we are allowed to set back 10% of the entire annual budget in a fund called capital improvement and we will not be subjected to the public tax objections. If the coal royalty revenue is less than \$100,000 in a given month, the amount needed to equal \$100,000 will be drawn equally from the Rainey Day Account and the Capital Improvement Account. The Committee also discussed the recommendations from County Auditor Whitey Patton regarding the funding needed in reserves to be able to conduct County Business should there be a drastic reduction in revenues. Hampton+Knodle would like to schedule a special committee meeting in order to discuss this issue. Need to decipher the survey results that the county board members suggested and get the priorities and parameters established so they can be taken out to the public. The committee could then focus on capital long term improvements and come up with a plan and they discussed looking for ideas on how to facilitate that discussion. **The Special Meeting will be held on Monday, May 19th at 7:00 pm in the Conference room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse.**

10. **Update/Approval Economic Development Incentives:** Hampton+Knodle reported that there is a business in Litchfield that needs some help with incentives to purchase the business. The business needs help with the past real estate taxes and a letter sent regarding taxes being too high. The City of Litchfield will give them a forgivable loan to pay for the back taxes. Hampton+Knodle stated that Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson shared that the County can not do a forgivable loan as an incentive. Ronen stated that this could set a precedence by forgiving real estate taxes. Wagahoff stated that 14 jobs will be lost if the business leaves and that she and Tonya Flannery had a conversation with the company. Their taxes are very high. Wagahoff stated that there is a viable option, and the company would leave if they don't get any help. Wagahoff stated that you could put an offer on the table to set real estate taxes. The Committee discussed that legally the States Attorney stated that we could not do anything and that the County budget will not allow help at this time.
11. **Update/Approval Memo of Understanding for Grain Belt Transmission:** Committee will review at their next meeting.
12. **Update/Approval Marketing County Property for Potential Development:** Hampton+Knodle will meet with Betsy Wilson and report to the Committee.
13. **Update/Approval 12" Water Main Between Litchfield and Hillsboro:** Committee will review the possibility to connect water services in case of emergency. This issue as given to Diana Holmes to put the Hazardous Mitigation Plan per Joe Gasparich.
14. **Update/Approval Other Business:** Committee discussed looking for potential businesses to advertise on the county GIS web based system. The Finance Committee has asked Mary Purcell to research more options and check to see what other Counties are doing. The committee discussed offering GIS web based presentations to the public to get the word out about the new system on the county web site.

There are no bills for this month

Motion by Jay Martin, second by Ron Deabenderfer 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.

DRAFT