

Montgomery County Board

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 10th, 2014

Time: 8:30 AM – County Board Room

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

Others Present: Lindsay Wagahoff

The Committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Update/Approval MCEDC:** Lindsay Wagahoff reported that the MCEDC annual meeting will be held on Thursday March 13th, 2014. Wagahoff also reported that letters went out to legislators regarding Eagle Zinc. They have done some grant training with Amanda Cole. The Weatherization class is full for this term and the next class will start on March 27th, 2014. Wagahoff met with the new manager of the Power Plant and a tour will be set up for County Board members.
2. **Update/Approval Central Illinois Economic Development Authority:** Heather Hampton+Knodle stated that there has been no movement on the Sangamon County project, and there has been an interest for a couple of businesses in our county.
3. **Update/Approval Planning Commission:** Megan Beeler reported that the Planning Commission will be discussing Housing at their next meeting that will be held on February 20th, 2013 at 5:30 PM. The committee discussed a county board liaison for the Housing Authority Board. The Planning Commission also continues to work on the dangerous intersections and roads that were identified and put on maps by the Sheriff's Department. Beeler has five copies of these maps and will provide one to the Highway Department. Engineer Smith will review the maps to identify which are the County Roads so the Road and Bridge committee can look at them.
4. **Update/Approval Community Priorities for CEDS - West Central Annual Report:** Waiting on an updated version of the CEDS report for about 1 year. Recently we have received a 2011 version of the report on a disk. We just learned that the report will be re-done. Wagahoff has talked with Jeremy Jones who is now working with West Central Development in Carlinville and they went over what information needs to be included in the annual report.
5. **Update/Approval Farm Bureau Meeting regarding Transmission Line Easements:** Beeler reported that she attended the meeting. The Farm Bureau is holding another meeting with attorney Jeff Mollet and they extended an invitation to Farm Bureau members on Friday, February 21st. The purpose is for land owners to come and meet with the attorney as a group. This is primarily for land owners that have been contacted by Ameren for easements.
6. **Update/Approval Utility Projects:** Heather Hampton+Knodle stated that Betsy Wilson has reviewed the memorandum of understanding for the Grainbelt Transmission project that they wanted us to take a look at. Hampton+Knodle wants the committee to review this memorandum for the next month.
7. **Update/Approval Structural Improvement Notification Permit Process:** Discussion took place regarding the Committee making a formal recommendation to the SOA office to do some

education and public awareness regarding the Structural Improvement Notification Permitting Process. Committee also discussed having some consequences if these permits are not filed before a structure is built. Bathurst suggested talking with County Officials to get a historical background on this issue. **Motion by Ron Deabenderfer second by Jay Marten to recommend to the Finance Committee to ask that the SOA notify active contractors in the County about the Structural Improvement Notification Permitting Process per the Planning Commission. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. Update/Approval Revolving Loan Fund Report & Policy & Procedure Manual Changes:

Lindsay Wagahoff shared payment reports on the two active revolving loan clients. The current RLF balance is \$178,148.87. Wagahoff reported that there have been some questions regarding the RLF program and that an interested business is filing out a RLF application.

- **RLF Policy and Procedure Manual Changes:** Lindsay Wagahoff presented the changes to the manual as recommended by the RLF Board. Committee reviewed and will suggest a couple of language changes and will have Assistant States Attorney Betsy Wilson review for further language clarification.

9. Update/Approval 2014 Legislative Priorities and Input: Hampton+Knodle asked committee members to forward any legislative input to her so a list can be compiled for committee discussion.

10. Update/Approval Economic Development Fund/Developing Guidelines for Long-Term Improvement Fund:

Committee discussed the Long-Term County Improvement Fund Guidelines. The principles are to apply funds to capital investments, not operating expenditures, preparing for economic transition when coal and coal revenues are depleted, and to maintain strong physical and social infrastructure for long-term viability and competitive position. Underfunded health/safety issues need to be used to help prioritize the projects. The target date for the committee to have applications up and running would be December 1st, 2014.

- **Pillars of Development** – Committee discussed setting a target date of September 1st. 2014 to establish the pillars of development. There will be several steps to accomplish this and the committee wants to come up with steps and the criteria for each of the pillars. Committee discussed having some public meetings around the County to get input from the municipalities regarding the priorities for the pillars of development. Committee would like to set up four town hall type meetings around the county and will need some volunteer facilitators to run these meetings. Lindsay Wagahoff stated that she will go to each meeting and take notes. Hampton+Knodle suggested having the facilitators trained to conduct the breakout groups at these meeting. Committee discussed having the meetings at locations in Witt, Litchfield, Waggoner and Taylor Springs. Tentative dates are: March 18th, 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th.

11. Update/Approval Quarterly Mayors Meeting: Meeting was cancelled on February 5th due to weather and will be re-scheduled for the April economic development meeting.

12. Update/Approval Other Business: Megan Beeler reported that she was contacted by a consultant for Deer Run Mine looking to see if Coal mining was addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. IDNR asked if they coal mine ran this new permit through the County to see if it is OK with the Comprehensive Plan. Beeler will take their letter to the next planning commission meeting.

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels as Deputized by the Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.

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