

# Montgomery County Board

## Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 5:30 pm– County Board Room

**Members Present:** Donna Yeske, Ron Deabenderfer, Mark Hughes, Dennis McCammack, Earlene Robinson, Glenn Savage and Evan Young

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Sandy Leitheiser, Valerie Belusko, David Kosturik, Eric Wedesky and Barton Pitts

The committee met today to discuss the following:

1. **Planning Commission Update/Approval:** Belusko reported the Planning Commission will meet quarterly this year on the following dates at 5:30 pm in the Conference Room on the second floor. January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.
2. **MCEDC Update/Approval:**
  - Revolving Loan Fund Update/Approval: Belusko shared a report with the committee and stated the cash balance is \$133,927 and payments are current.
  - CEO Program Update/Approval: Belusko reported the CEO program is hosting an event called Moco's Got Talent on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Hillsboro High School.
  - Broadband/Fiber Project Update/Approval: Belusko reported she is meeting with a professor from the U of I for a Master's Class to review and study ways to market the high speed internet effectively.
3. **Tourism Update/Approval:**
  - Tourism Financial Grant Application (draft) Update/Approval: Belusko shared a final draft of the Tourism Financial Grant Application so the committee can review it for one month and vote on recommending it to the full board next month. Belusko reported the Videographer will have the first two videos done in January and they are looking at doing a video at Route 66 drive in where owner Mindy Pastrovich is trying to get everything together.
  - IllinoisSouth Tourism Bureau: Belusko reported that IllinoisSouth covers 23 counties in Illinois and we will be getting a confirmation letter sent to us on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to renew our \$2,500 per year membership. We have also have two seats on their board of directors. Belusko reported we have an opportunity to join another tourism bureau called Rivers and Routes because they recently took in Macoupin County so we can join them if we are contiguous. Rivers and Routes covers 4 counties and they do not charge a membership fee and have no board representation. Belusko reported that she and Sarah Waggoner with the City of Litchfield Tourism Office have sat in on several of their meetings and they are not comparable on how they operate versus IllinoisSouth. Rivers and Routes have marketing professionals that run their tourism organization and they know how to promote very well and work well with known leaders and overseas. Belusko suggested that committee members check out their website and on-line videos. Belusko reported that Rivers and Routes get their funding from the State and recommends staying with the same tourism bureau as the City of Litchfield. **Motion by Dennis McCammack and second by Glenn Savage to join the River and Routes Tourism Bureau and discontinue membership with IllinoisSouth Tourism Bureau. All in favor, motion carried.**

4. **Eagle Zinc Cleanup Update/Approval:** Yeske stated they are still hauling dirt to the site.
5. **Mine Avenue Solar Project Update/Approval:** Yeske reported the public hearing was held today at 3:30 pm for the two solar projects being proposed by Nexamp 06759 and 06760 – Crown Three East I and II on Mine Avenue. The project application is to install two, 2 MW solar arrays on parcel 01-31-300-005 owned by Springfield Coal Co. LLC on Mine Ave near Farmersville, IL. The application was available for public review and questions and comments were heard. **Motion by Ron Deabenderfer and second by Mark Hughes to recommend the approval of the Crown Three East I solar project on Mine Avenue on parcel ID 01-31-300-005. All in favor, motion carried.**  
**Motion by Mark Hughes and second by Glenn Savage to recommend the approval of the Crown Three East II solar project on Mine Avenue on parcel ID 01-31-300-005. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Shoal Creek Community Solar Update/Approval:** Yeske reported a public hearing was held today at 4:30 pm for the proposed Shoal Creek Community Solar project submitted by the Solar Provider Group to install one, 2 MW solar array on parcel 20-23-400-004 a few miles west of Donnellson, IL. The application was available for public review and questions and comments were heard. **Motion by Mark Hughes and second by Glenn Savage to recommend the approval of the Shoal Creek Community Solar Project submitted by the Solar Provider Group on parcel ID 20-23-400-004 a few miles west of Donnellson, IL. All in favor, motion carried.**
1. **Enterprise Zone Update/Approval:** Daniels reported the EZ application was taken to DCEO on December 31st 2019 and there were over 12 applications submitted for six slots. Daniels stated that we received the information for nine of the criteria from the consultant on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:30 am and it all had to go into the application. Daniels also stated we were tasked with getting a list of the county infrastructure for rail, road, pipelines, water lines, utilities etc. with a 3 – 5 year plan and the inventory lists and information was very difficult to find. The City of Litchfield and the Count Highway Department did have inventories of their infrastructure and plans with costs for upgrades.
2. **West Central Development Update/Approval:** Belusko shared an organizational flow chart on the West central Development Council with the duties. Lack of Communication. Belusko stated she met with Marsha Mueller to go over emails from EDA and noted they were confusing. The EDA office also had staff changes and some people said things that were submitted were wrong and someone else would look at it and say it was OK. The committee discussed working on better communication with WCDC.
3. **Other Business Update/Approval:** None
4. **Public Comments Update/Approval:** None

There are no bills this month.

Motion by Glenn Savage and second by Dennis McCammack to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.