

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017

Members Present:

Jerry Dinges	Robert Trentman
Rick Vernier	Frank Heiligenstein
Marty Crawford	Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Robert Allen

Staff Present:

Terry Beach, Director

Others Present:

John West, County Board Member
Fred Boch, County Board Member
Charles Lee, PBC Commissioner
Tim Cantwell, Airport Director
Barb Dinges, citizen and wife of Jerry Dinges
Randy Pierce, reporter

Call to Order:

Chairman Sharkey called the Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

Mr. Sharkey asked if anyone present had a question or comment regarding the agenda. There were none.

Approval of the July 20, 2017 Committee Minutes (action required):

Mr. Sharkey called for action on the July 20, 2017 Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Creation of temporary ad-hoc Sub-Committee to review and provide input on the Airport's new Master Plan. The purpose of the temporary sub-committee was discussed. Mr. Crawford made the motion to approve the Sub-Committee and the motion was seconded by Mr. Trentman. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report, information only):

Mr. Sharkey asked the Director to give his report. Mr. Beach updated the Committee on department activities in the past thirty days and other on-going projects. He described one new lead/prospect: 1) A real estate firm has a pipe manufacturing client that is seeking a site to construct a new facility. At this time the real estate advisor is requesting sites that meet the following key requirements:

- Site size: 100-150 acres.
- Barge service at the site – willing to consider waterway site without docks, but would need to understand the approval process for the installation of docks. Barge volumes are not known at this time.
- Rail service to the site – direction and quantities of inbound raw material and outbound finished product is not known at this stage of the project.
- Major highway in close proximity is preferred.
- Illinois search area: Anywhere along a waterway that meets the above requirements. Competing states are IN, OH, KY, MO and TN.
- Utility requirements have not been identified. However, it is estimated that power would be relatively heavy at 1500-2000 amps.
- Plans call for the construction of a 600-700k SF facility. Some of their land may be used for the storage of pipes. Employment is estimated at 200-300 workers. Project schedule: There are no target dates at this time, but it is anticipated the client will move forward with the project at a reasonably fast pace.

Meetings attended or coordinated by the staff in the past month: NACO annual meeting (Columbus, OH) and Mid-America Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB).

Mr. Dinges asked about the status of Front Street (River Bridge District, Phase 1). Mr. Beach replied that is was about 40% complete.

New Business (Airport Director's Report, information only):

Mr. Sharkey asked Mr. Cantwell to give his Airport report. He again discussed the upcoming Airport Master Plan Update process. A discussion followed. *His full report is attached.*

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

Additional comments or questions from the Committee or the Public

There were none.

Mr. Heiligenstein discussed concerns regarding TIF surpluses and the affect it has on other taxing bodies including the County.

With no other information to discuss Mr. Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Dinges. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.