

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2019

#### Members Present:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Robert Trentman | Ken Sharkey    |
| Robert Allen    | Jerry Dinges   |
| Marty Crawford  | Matt Smallheer |
| Rick Vernier    |                |

#### Staff Present:

Terry Beach, Director  
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant  
Rick Stubblefield, Grants Department

#### Others Present:

Mark Kern, County Board Chairman  
Debra Moore, County Administrator  
Herb Simmons, Emergency Management/911  
Randy Pierce, reporter (arrived at 5:20 pm)

#### Call to Order:

Chairman Sharkey called the Committee to order at 5:15 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 November 26, 2018 Committee Minutes (action required):

Mr. Sharkey called for action on the November 26, 2018 Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion passed unanimously.

#### New Business (Director's Report, action required):

Mr. Sharkey asked the Director to give his report. Mr. Beach updated the Committee on department activities and meetings since the November 26, 2018 Committee meeting and other on-going projects. He distributed and read his monthly report (November 27, 2018 – January 28, 2019). There was one new lead/prospect (from Intersect Illinois): Project Tiger Two. As is the normal procedure, Mr. Beach stated he forwarded this lead to all communities in the County and commercial realtors that have their principal office located in the County. He also distributed a three page summary describing details about Project Tiger Two.

Mr. Beach also stated that staff had submitted the American Bottoms Enterprise Zone "renewal" application to the State by the December 31, 2018 deadline. That Enterprise Zone is one of two we administer and one of six in the County, in whole or in part. That Zone had always included all or portions of Sauget, Cahokia, and Dupu.

He reminded the Committee we added the Village of East Carondelet. The State will score both the renewals and new applications from throughout the State from May through July, will award the new or renewed Zones in September, and they will be effective January 1, 2020. Mr. Beach thanked our consultant Keith Moran and his team at Moran Economic Development located in Edwardsville for managing this often complex application process for us.

He also mentioned we were still finalizing plans to submit the revised "incentives package" for the St. Clair County MidAmerica Enterprise Zone. The Committee and the County Board approved those changes at the September meeting. That Zone includes parts of O'Fallon, Shiloh, Mascoutah, Lebanon, and the Airport. And, he also thanked Moran Economic Development for assisting us with this also.

No enterprise zone fee checks were received in this time period (we charge a 0.5% fee of the amount of the building materials planned for a project) to issue the sales tax exemption certificate. In calendar year 2018 we collected (and remitted to the County) a total of \$8,633.50. That was slight increase over 2017 but still below the \$77,200.00 we collected in 2016.

Governor J.B. Pritzker was at SWIC, Belleville (January 16<sup>th</sup>) to sign an Executive Order regarding the transfer of funds for additional workforce training. The new Director-designate of Illinois DCEO Erin Guthrie also spoke as did our Workforce Development Group Coordinator at the Grants Department, Rick Stubblefield. The Governor and his office had been in contact with County Board Chairman Kern regarding this event. Chairman Kern met later with Governor Pritzker and Ms. Guthrie for over an hour regarding economic development and infrastructure. The press release and some photos are attached.

Meetings Mr. Beach attended: he represented the County at the annual TIF Joint Review Board meetings in the City or Village of: Collinsville (December 5<sup>th</sup>), Millstadt (December 5<sup>th</sup>), Sauget (December 11<sup>th</sup>), Swansea (December 18<sup>th</sup>), and New Baden (January 10<sup>th</sup>). He was unable to attend TIF meetings in Belleville, St. Libory, and Fairview Heights during this time period.

He attended the quarterly Boeing congressional staff/civic leaders briefing at the main Boeing office in St. Louis County along with County Board Chairman Kern and Rick Stubblefield from the Grants Department (December 10<sup>th</sup>), arranged a meeting at the Metro East Park & Recreation District office in Collinsville (January 3<sup>rd</sup>), arranged a meeting at the Illinois South Tourism office (January 8<sup>th</sup>), attended the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce Board meeting (January 15<sup>th</sup>) where he always gives a brief update at every Board meeting, and attended (and we played a small role in coordinating) the Governor's executive order signing at SWIC (January 16<sup>th</sup>).

Social media: Facebook page has 2,325 "likes" which is -3 from late November and Twitter has 790 "followers" which is +17 since late November. I attempt to post 4-5 times weekly regarding our activities and those of our partners. Please follow/like us: Facebook: St. Clair County Economic Development (StClairCountyEconDev) and Twitter: @SCCEconDev.

Finally, Mr. Beach stated this was his last Committee meeting. He is retiring Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> after nearly 44 years of public service. He has been the Economic Development Director since August, 2005 and has been honored to have been the first Director as Chairman Kern created, with County Board approval, the Economic Development Department at that August, 2005 County Board meeting. Chairman Kern has selected Rick Stubblefield as his replacement and Mr. Stubblefield will be appointed later that evening at the County Board meeting to both positions Mr. Beach currently occupies (Economic Development Director and Executive Director of our sister agency, the Intergovernmental Grants Department). Mr. Beach stated his pleasure with that choice as he has known Rick's family for decades and he has had the opportunity to work with him closely for the past four years.

Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the Director's Report and Mr. Allen made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Cantwell was not present.

Under Old Business, the Committee once again discussed changing the time of the Committee meeting. After a discussion, Mr. Vernier made a motion to change the time to 5:00 pm from the current 6:00 pm time and that was seconded by Mr. Crawford. The motion passed but there was some question regarding a requirement that full County Board must approved this change.

There were no additional comments or questions from the Committee or the public. Mr. Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Allen so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Vernier. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:23 pm.