

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes December 16, 2021

Members Present:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Jerry Dinges, Assistant Chairman
Robert Allen
Marty Crawford
Matt Smallheer
Robert Trentman
Rick Vernier

Members Excused:

None

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

None

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken Sharkey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and took roll call. Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

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

Approval of the October 21, 2021 Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the October 21, 2021 Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Trentman. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Rick Stubblefield presented the 2022 Economic Development Committee Meeting Schedule. Upon a motion by Mr. Allen, and a second by Mr. Trentman, the 2022 Economic Development Committee Meeting Schedule was approved unanimously and placed on file.

Rick Stubblefield informed members the County is still waiting on a PACE ordinance to get approved. He stated St. Charles County is considering eliminating PACE financing for residential; St. Clair County is just commercial. Rick Vernier asked why St. Charles County pulled theirs back. Mr. Stubblefield responded he

believes the county was receiving complaints regarding the residential piece of it. He will be reaching out to their Economic Development Director.

New Business (Director's Report):

Rick Stubblefield stated work continues with SWIC and Boeing to bring training to the Illinois side of the river. He, along with Workforce Development staff and SWIC, recently toured the Boeing plant; they were able to see the prototypes for the MQ-25 and the F-18 both of which utilize Boeing training. Boeing also had St. Louis Community College in attendance who currently provides training. Mr. Stubblefield reminded members Boeing has their own curriculum that is proprietary to Boeing and FAA approved. He noted Boeing is engaged and would like to see the curriculum at the new SWIC facility for Advanced Manufacturing Training. Mr. Stubblefield expressed he is optimistic it is going to happen. He stated he continues to have conversations with SWIC regarding incorporating the training and equipment into the new facility they are building; questions are being addressed as to who will pay for equipment and how SWIC will be reimbursed as well as if the area has to be proprietary and can it be used for other purposes when Boeing does not have a class.

Mr. Stubblefield stated the 2nd round of the Rental Payment Program has started. He noted more than \$12 million in assistance was provided to St. Clair County landlords in the first round which was the fourth highest in the state behind Cook, Will, and DuPage counties; more than 2,000 St. Clair County families received assistance. Mr. Stubblefield stated as of today, for the second round, St. Clair County has the second highest number of applications submitted in the state behind Cook County. St. Clair County is also second highest in the state in court-based eviction relief. He explained if tenants go to court for an eviction there is a program that allows the court to provide financial assistance through IHDA. Mr. Stubblefield stressed these programs keep units from being vacant and from people being put out on the streets. Mr. Vernier asked if the second round will be the final round. Mr. Stubblefield responded a round of mortgage assistance is planned next.

Mr. Stubblefield stated work continues on the Build, Back, Better grant through EDA. He reminded members support is needed for the aerospace park at MidAmerica; a taxiway is needed that will hold the weight of the MQ-25. Mr. Stubblefield explained sixty applicants will be selected to receive \$500,000 in the first round of the grant to develop a plan for a \$100,000,000 grant. St. Clair County partnered with St. Louis with Greater STL as the lead. Mr. Stubblefield stated applicants had to have a big census area to be considered in the top thirty census areas in the country; the County could not do it alone and St. Louis needed a regional partner to advance manufacturing and training. He informed members he found out today the Greater STL application has been selected for the first round, part of the first sixty. He stated the second round will be narrowed down to twenty or thirty. Mr. Vernier clarified Greater STL will receive \$500,000 to develop a plan. Mr. Stubblefield responded yes; the plan will include a new training facility near Ranken, will add to the SWIC and MidAmerica projects, among other projects.

Mr. Stubblefield reminded members of the contract with Smith Dawson & Andrews. He noted biweekly calls are being held and expressed he is very impressed with what is coming out of the calls. He stated they will be very helpful with both the base as well as other areas such as grant funds for roads, bridges, and projects outside of the base. Mr. Stubblefield noted they have a lot of ideas regarding saving missions and bringing new missions to Scott.

There were no comments or questions.

Chairman Sharkey called for action to place the Director's report on file. Mr. Smallheer made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dinges. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Bryan Johnson was unable to attend due to a conflict.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Kimberly Huth was unable to attend due to a conflict.

Other Comments:

None

Adjournment:

There were no additional comments or questions from the Committee. Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vernier so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:09p.m.