

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Rick Vernier

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Director
Jennifer Little, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

Mark Kern, County Board Chairman
Kimberly Huth, Military Affairs Director

Call to Order:

Chairman 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 July 15, 2021 Committee Minutes (action required):

Chairman Sharkey called for action on the July 15, 2021 Committee minutes. Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Rick Stubblefield discussed a proposed PACE Financing Ordinance. He explained PACE is an innovative way to finance green projects within commercial industries; the financing is bonded through the Illinois Finance Authority. He noted Fairview Heights has a PACE Ordinance. Mr. Stubblefield stated instead of each municipality putting an ordinance in place, a County-wide ordinance is being proposed making it easier for more businesses to utilize PACE as a tool to get low rates and long-term, 100-percent financing on projects such as solar and other green projects. Mr. Stubblefield stated he is currently drafting an ordinance and is working with the Illinois Finance Authority to ensure it is consistent. He is hopeful the ordinance will be drafted by next month's meeting.

County Board Chairman Mark Kern discussed the county's bid for Space Command approximately one year ago and noted Scott AFB did not make the short-list for the location. The process provided the county an awareness and list

of improvements to be made. Chairman Kern stated the region needs to go further with connections in Washington, D.C. in addition to state legislators, senators, and congressmen that represent this area. The region requires military experience and knowledge to help Scott AFB grow, overcome weaknesses, and become more BRAC-proof. Chairman Kern noted the County engaged in the past with an independent contractor, Smith Dawson Andrews, and is proposing to again engage with Smith Dawson Andrews to address issues and improvements regarding Scott AFB rather than waiting for the next round of BRAC. Chairman Kern noted Scott AFB contributes \$3 billion to the local economy and is the county's largest employer; he stressed the need to take care of this asset and this agreement will do that. Rick Stubblefield added there has been many conversations regarding the opportunities and growth around MidAmerica Airport and noted that is indirectly tied to Scott AFB. Chairman Kern stressed Scott AFB is not in any danger; the focus is on growing and building the base and surrounding area. He noted there was a minor change to the copy of the contract provided to committee members; the LLC in the contractor name was corrected. Kimberly Huth added from the application for Space Command, the County learned the direction in which the Department of Defense is looking to go and how they will choose future missions. She expressed the additional help in Washington, D.C. will assist the County in getting ahead of future opportunities. Chairman Kern explained Smith Dawson Andrews will inform the County as to the metrics being used for the BRAC process, to select locations, and will inform the County of grant opportunities. He added with Kimberly Huth, the County is looking to form the Scott Action Group comprised of community leaders to build public input.

Jerry Dinges asked if there is an escape clause in the agreement. Chairman Kern responded it is a mutual agreement that can be terminated by either party with a 30-day notice.

Mr. Dinges made the motion to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement and Mr. Smallheer made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Rick Stubblefield stated there has been some back and forth regarding EDA grants. There is a NOFO out for EDA; Rebuild being one. Mr. Stubblefield has reviewed the NOFO's and had many conversations with EDA and Kevin Terveer. He also recently met with Grant Litteken with O'Fallon to discuss EDA; the meeting went well and he expressed everyone is steered in the direction to work together. Mr. Stubblefield expressed to be funded by EDA, projects have to be solid, concrete ideas tied to interest and jobs. He noted conversations have been very productive.

There were no further comments or questions.

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

New Business (Airport Director's Report):

Due to a conflict, Bryan Johnson was unable to attend. County Board Chairman Kern noted Allegiant's numbers are up; they recently had their best month at the airport. He stated the terminal will be completed by the end of 2022; all but \$2 million has been funded by grants; the project has been conducted in a very fiscally responsible manner. Chairman Kern noted the completed terminal will lead to more flights and destinations. Chairman Sharkey added he recently attended a meeting at the airport and noted it was extremely busy. He also expressed the new construction was very impressive.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Kimberly Huth informed members the license portability bill was signed by the governor. She explained the bill permits spouses that relocate to the area to apply for a license and have it within 30 days of applying; they can apply as soon as they have PCS orders to Scott AFB and will be able to work when they get here.

Ms. Huth informed members County Board Chairman Mark Kern was recently named Air Mobility Command Civic Leader. She explained he was one of twenty-seven and will be a voice around the globe regarding military, cargo, or anything that moves in the air.

Ms. Huth stated she and Chairman Kern will be meeting with Colonel Robinson, the new Wing Commander, this Friday.

Ms. Huth stated she continues to work on the Metrolink expansion and a possible gate closure. She will brief the Chairman on Wednesday.

Ms. Huth informed members the County was recently named an outstanding support for employment for National Guard and Reserve in all of Illinois. The County was one of three communities to be named.

Other Comments:

None

Adjournment:

There were no additional comments or questions from the Committee. Chairman Sharkey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Crawford so moved and it was seconded by Mr. Smallheer. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:17p.m.