

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Steve McIntyre
DATE/TIME: Monday, August 30, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

PRESENT:

☐ Nick Tranel	☒ Emily Legel	☒ Don Schaible
☒ Gary Diedrick	☒ Steve McIntyre	☒ John Schultz
☒ Mike Dittmar	☐ Rose Noble	☒ Eric Tison
☒ Janelle Keeffer	☐ Fran Peterson	☒ Darcy Wild
☐ Jason Kevern	☐ Hendrica Regez	

Others: Scott Toot (JDC), Don Hill (JDC), David Schmit (NWILED)

1. Call to Order – Steve McIntyre called the meeting to order at 4:00.
2. Roll Call – A quorum of members was present.
3. Introductions – None
4. Approval of Minutes - None
5. Citizens’ Comments – None
6. Unfinished Business
 - a) Discussion of the items identified for business development from past meetings:
 - i. Sites: Shovel ready sites for businesses, residences, and parks/recreation
 1. Update on JDC Park (Elizabeth) – Project Cancelled
 2. Advisory Group to Blackhawk Hills Regional trail plan updates - None
 - ii. Transportation: 4 lane highway, rail, river ports, and other infrastructures
Scott Toot stated Highway 20 repairs around Galena are occurring.
Steve McIntyre stated there has been no new rail funding.
 - iii. Connectivity: High Speed Internet/Cell coverage/and other connectivity needs
Steve McIntyre stated buildouts are occurring in the Galena Territory and at Apple Canyon Lake.
 - iv. Building Services: Utilities and other site infrastructure needs - None
 - v. Workforce: Education, training, attracting outside and inside workers
 1. Discussion on what JDC can do to get people back to work and help with the underemployment problem in our county. - None

2. Present Workforce Programs – Emily

Emily Legel stated NWILED, and the Galena Area Chamber of Commerce is compiling a business kit for new and existing businesses.

Janelle Keeffer stated the Galena Area Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a job fair for Monday, September 13th from 2:00 to 7:00 PM at Turner Hall.

- vi. Marketing: How to market our county being “ready”. Living Large in Rural America
None

vii. Business/Residential/Community Impeding Ordinances

1. Survey Update

John Schultz stated no update on the business services survey.

Emily Legel offered her assistance with helping drive the survey.

2. Update on Amendments forwarded to Development Committee

Steve McIntyre and John Schultz summarized the decisions made by the Development Committee at their last meeting, which were brought forth by the Ad-Hoc.

Mike Dittmar commented how these small changes prove the Ad Hoc is accomplishing things, but stressed frustration with the zoning process, which he says is a balance of economic development and protectionism.

John Schultz and Steve McIntyre also stated frustration with the zoning process.

viii. Business Grants and other funding

1. Small Business Stabilization Grant Update

Emily Legel stated the State of Illinois Back to Business (B2B) Grant is now open. Businesses can reach out to NWILED for assistance.

ix. Quality of Life – Amenities, Welcoming programs, etc.

1. Updates - None

7. New Business – None

8. Staff Reports

a) NWILED

Emily Legel presented her report, including details on the Back to Business Grant, a small business incentives handout, the progress of the Jo Daviess County Workforce Housing Study, and upcoming NWILED special events, including the annual meeting.

b) Planning and Development

Eric Tison stated permit activity is comparable to 2020’s incredible rates, and that new home construction values are averaging above \$300K.

c) County Administrator

Scott Toot stated manufacturing job loss in Jo Daviess County is concerning, along with the County’s population loss as reported in the census.

Scott Toot also asked about the closure of the Great River Market in Hanover. Don Schaible stated the closure may be temporary.

d) RE Sales Data YTD

Steve McIntyre presented his Residential Properties Sold in Jo Daviess County report.

9. Citizens Comments –

Mike Dittmar stated Elizabeth intends to work with Western IL University to pursue the development of a subdivision.

10. Committee Concerns –

Don Hill asked about the rescheduling of the hemp discussion with Rob Davies. Steve McIntyre replied that he will try to get him onto the September agenda.

11. Next regular meeting – September 27 @ 4:00 PM

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM following a motion by Mike Dittmar; seconded by Don Schaible.