

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Steve McIntyre
DATE/TIME: Monday, October 25, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

PRESENT:

☐ Nick Tranel
☐ Gary Diedrick
☒ Mike Dittmar
☐ Janelle Keeffer
☐ Jason Kevern

☒ Emily Legel
☒ Steve McIntyre
☒ Rose Noble
☐ Fran Peterson
☐ Hendrica Regez

☒ Don Schaible
☒ John Schultz
☒ Eric Tison
☐ Darcy Wild

Others: Scott Toot (JDC), David Schmit (NWILED), Rob Davies (Savanna Industrial Park), Lance Lawson (Sulcanna).

1. Call to Order – Steve McIntyre called the meeting to order at 4:30.
2. Roll Call – A quorum of members was present.
3. Introductions – None
4. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from June 28, 2021. Motion by John Schultz; seconded by Rose Noble. Motion carried without any objections.
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. Advisory Group to Blackhawk Hills Regional trail plan updates - None
 - ii. Transportation: 4 lane highway, rail, river ports, and other infrastructures - Don Schaible stated the Illinois Municipal League had recently discussed rail from Chicago to Rockford.
 - iii. Connectivity: High Speed Internet/Cell coverage/and other connectivity needs
Steve McIntyre stated Jo Daviess County has areas of poor service and needs new towers.
Eric Tison stated equipment upgrades are ongoing.
Rose Noble stated officials and the public should approach Jo-Carroll Energy to improve connectivity.
 - iv. Building Services: Utilities and other site infrastructure needs – Mike Dittmar stated the Village of Elizabeth recently completed a sewer, watermain, and splashpad project.
 - v. Workforce: Education, training, attracting outside and inside workers – Emily Legel stated applications for the US Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge applications are due in January and results are expected August 2022.
Legel also stated Manufacturing Day is being planned for spring 2022.
 - vi. Marketing: How to market our county being "ready". Living Large in Rural America
Rose Noble stated Jo Daviess County has seen "bonker business," and City of Galena will be considering 2022 outdoor dining at an upcoming meeting. Noble also stated there has been great collaboration recently

between Galena Country Tourism, Northwest Illinois Economic Development and the Galena Area Chamber of Commerce.

vii. Business/Residential/Community Impeding Ordinances

1. Update on any other Amendments to forward to Development Committee –

Mike Dittmar stated he met with John Schultz on 9/21/2021 to discuss guest accommodation requirements, including the 15% road grade language.

Steve McIntyre stated there isn't a common definition for what constitutes a greenhouse. McIntyre also stated code 8-5B-16 should be looked at.

Rose Noble stated she wants to understand the context around the zoning ordinances that are being perceived as problematic so a substantive committee conversation can be had.

Steve McIntyre and Mike Dittmar replied to Noble stating a "loose construction approach" should be taken.

viii. Business Grants and other funding - None

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

1. Updates - None

7. New Business –

a) Update on Hemp at the Depot/Hanover. – Lance Lawson, Rob Davies

Lawson and Davies present their presentation titled, 'Renewable Energy Generation through Anaerobic Digestion of Food Waste.' They describe the partnership between the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and Odyssey Renewable Energy, which is a new enterprise they incorporated at the LRA. Food waste digestion is part of their overall closed loop hemp production plan for the LRA. Lawson and Daviess also discussed the project's proposed job creation numbers as well as its environmental components.

Steve McIntyre commented Lawson and Daviess should work with local community colleges on workforce training, and that they should seek out waste management partnerships and contracts.

Rob Davies asked if Jo Daviess County has grants available for Hanover businesses. Mike Dittmar replied describing grants the Village of Elizabeth has. Don Schaible replied saying Hanover is in the process of updating their grant schedule.

b) Discussion and possible action on electing a vice chairperson for the AD-Hoc Committee.

Steve McIntyre stated he is going south for the winter, so the committee needs a vicechair to host upcoming meetings.

John Schultz nominated Rose Noble for vicechair; Mike Dittmar seconded.

Rose Noble states she is too busy to be vicechair and nominated Emily Legel; John Schultz seconded.

Motion to elect Rose Noble failed with Legel, Noble, and Dittmar voting No; McIntyre and Schultz abstained.

Motion to elect Emily Legal passed with Legel, Noble, and Tison voting Yes; Dittmar Voting No; McIntyre and Schultz abstaining.

8. Staff Reports

a) NWILED

Emily Legel referred to her update, which was in the meeting packet.

b) Planning and Development

None

c) County Administrator

Scott Toot stated his support for the new Lola's Deli coming into the Village of Elizabeth. He also confirmed \$64K in cannabis sales tax was generated for the general fund.

d) RE Sales Data YTD

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

9. Citizens Comments – None

10. Committee Concerns –

Rose Noble stated Jo Daviess County should readdress cannabis zoning.

11. Next regular meeting – January 24, 2022 @ 4:00 PM.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM following a motion by Emily Legel; seconded by Rose Noble.