

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2021

- I. Chairman Oberleiter called the Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation held at the Monroe Bank & Trust Headquarters at 10 Washington Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161 on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 to order at 9:35 a.m.

- II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Kim Comerzan, Stacey Goans, George Jondro, Mike Baker, Barry Buschmann (left at 11:09), Tim Janssen, Matt Vanisacker, Dan Minton (left at 11:08), Tracy Oberleiter and Randy Richardville (arrived at 10:19 and left at 10:59)

ABSENT: Tom Allen and Scot Laskey (both excused)

A quorum being present, the Committee proceeded to conduct business.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Barry Buschmann, seconded by David Swartout to approve the March 9, 2021 agenda as presented. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (12/22/2020 – Organizational Meeting)

Motion by Dan Minton, seconded by Stacey Goans to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2020 Organizational Meeting, as amended, and waive the reading thereof. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

V. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Update report-Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team-Barry Buschmann
 - Successful Zoning & Planning webinar on February 10, 2021. About 60 attended. TK Productions helped broadcast it. Formed 2 subcommittees. 2 webinars planned one in the fall & one in the winter. Need suggestions for topics.
 - Want to single out municipalities who would like to develop I-75 or U.S. 23 corridor
 - Streamlining Guide is constantly being updated. Would like Health Department to have a part in it.
2. Update report-Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Grow Strategically Pillar Team-Matt Vanisacker
 - Launch 734 has Instagram page with followers. Building a website.

- Ralph Wilson Foundation-targets entrepreneurial initiatives. Interested in supporting/funding Launch 734. Encouraged them to apply for a \$100,000 grant request.
3. Monroe County Link Project-Matt Vanisacker
 - Prepare for Investment—received an email from Canadian Consulate General's Office-Bridge Authority who want to take parts of the Link Plan and put it in their strategy. They are very interested in Monroe County for business initiatives.
 - Image & Brand, Quality of Life & Tourism pillars are merging
 - Image & Brand got their brand launched and are going to assist with a tourism study
 - MI Cornerstone is now launched. Trying to roll out the logo usage to the business community. 10 different entities have asked to use it. 100-Mile Bike Race plan on using it.
 - Gateway Beautification program is back and running. Pilot program at intersections 15 & 18 on I-75 corridor
 4. MCBDC/ProMedica Matching Funds-Matt Vanisacker
 - Zoom Broom-hand held portable blower for residential use
 - There are a number of new storefronts in downtown city of Monroe and across the county
 5. Michigan Small Business Restart Program-Matt Vanisacker
 - New grant program. \$663,000 in grant funding to Monroe County distributed to 72 businesses throughout the county
 - Some businesses just did not reopen
 6. Monroe County BDC Virtual Annual Investors Meeting -Wednesday, March 10, 2021 starting @ 8 a.m. Register online at monroecountybdc.org-Tracy Oberleiter
 - Virtual tour of Gerdau plant
 7. EDC Zoning & Planning Webinar-February 10, 2021-Barry Buschmann—See item number 1 above
 8. COVID-19 Monroe County update report-Kim Comerzan
 - Tracy Oberleiter complimented Kim and her staff regarding the vaccination process.
 - Case numbers are still rising. 8746 as of today; 6500 3 months ago. Positivity rate 2.9% in February; 4.8% today. 26 average cases per day; 16 average a week ago.
 - Hospital is doing well with capacity
 - Social distancing & Masking wearing are still the best ways to beat this.
 - Getting more doses of vaccine so we can expand clinics
 - Mental Health issues have increased. People need to have human interaction.

Discussion commenced about migrant workers and social distancing in the Ag business.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS- None

VII. INFORMATION – Announcements/Information from Board members

1. Tim Janssen discussed people from out of town coming in and buying land in Monroe County. Price of land is going up. New farmers will have challenges with prices the way they are.
2. Stacey Goans—Employment & Training
 - My Reconnect Plan is out right now
 - Office is not open to the public yet
 - Clients can make an appointment if needed
 - April 5 should be in Phase 2 of reopening plan
 - Zoom classes and webinars available
 - Virtual Job Fairs available
 - Unemployment compensation is extended. More jobs available than people who want to work or go to school. The longest she has seen it go in the past is 18 months-2 years.
3. Mike Baker—Utilities
 - Construction opening up a bit
 - Continuing with wearing masks and social distancing in and out of the office
4. David Swartout
 - Prices of everything related to the housing market is increasing
 - He talked with Kim Comerzan and based on the conversation, the Board of Directors of the Home Builders Association decided to cancel the Home Show this year
 - At the last Board of Commissioners meeting Televate made a presentation regarding the 9-1-1 paging system. Good presentation.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – Oath of Office taken by coming in person to Clerk's office or by a notary of their choosing.

IX. NEW BUSINESS—None

X. CITIZENS TIME – None

XI. NEXT MEETING – June 8, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (unless it bumps up against the Chamber of Commerce event)

XII. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by Matt Vanisacker, supported by David Swartout. Voice vote taken. Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 11:22 a.m. with no further business.