

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2021

I. Chairman Oberleiter called the Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation held electronically via Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Tom Allen (arrived late), Mike Baker (left at 8:29), Barry Buschmann, Kim Comerzan, Stacey Goans, Tim Janssen, Scot Laskey, Dan Minton (left at 8:29), Tracy Oberleiter, David Swartout and Matt Vanisacker

ABSENT: Randy Richardville (excused)

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Matt Vanisacker, seconded by Stacey Goans to approve the June 8, 2021 agenda as presented. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (03/09/2021 – Regular Meeting)

Motion by Dan Minton, seconded by David Swartout to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting, as presented, 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

- Taking the PowerPoint presentation on the road to various townships to highlight how they can help the township
- Looking at sites for development
- Having virtual and in-person meetings

2. Update report-Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Launch 734 Pillar Team-Matt Vanisacker

- Launch734.com website is now live. Need to direct entrepreneurs to the website. Office space downtown will be available for some of these entrepreneurs.
- Pillar team received \$100,000 Ralph Wilson Foundation grant
- Getting furniture for space and tenants that are moving in July 1 (Community Foundation, CASA and Child Care Network)

3. Monroe County Link Project-Matt Vanisacker

- MI Cornerstone logos are available for use, as well as merchandise with logo on it
- Thanks to the Board of Commissioners for Resolution of Support
- Darryl Diamond (Fair Manager) is coming to the next Pillar meeting

- September 16, 2021 is next EDC Municipal Conference
4. MCBDC/ProMedica Matching Funds-Matt Vanisacker
 - Zoom Broom
 - College App
 - Events calendar presentation
 5. COVID-19 Monroe County update report-Kim Comerzan
 - 3.5% positivity rate currently. 18-19% in last 3 months
 - 41-42% of the County has the first shot and 36.9% have the second shot
 - Last large vaccination clinic at MCCC today
 - Trying to get kids vaccinated
 - We appreciate the acknowledgement we have gotten from citizens in the County
 - Lots of people in the County traveled to Ohio to get the vaccine. Those people (who were vaccinated outside of Michigan) need to come to the Health Department and show their card in order to have more accurate records within the County and State.
 6. Michigan Works update-Stacy Goans
 - No longer assisting with unemployment claims as of May 1. As of May 30 unemployment agency has put a work requirement for claims which can be just one per activity and it doesn't have to be a job. Even a workshop counts. Unemployment \$\$ extensions will probably come to an end September 2021.
 - 14,000 unemployment calls were helped. March unemployment rate = 5.6%
 - Walk-ins now at Michigan Works. Up to 33% capacity—8 walk-ins as of yesterday
 - In-person/outdoor job fair planned and virtual workshops planned
 - Partnering with MCCC for classes. Resurrecting machine repair course.
 - Minimum wage increase for unskilled labor to attract workers. Some are giving sign-on bonuses. No incentive for people to work when making more on unemployment. Child care is a big reason why people are hesitant to go back to work.
 - Advance on Child Tax Credit starting in July for 6 months
 - Hiring at Employment and Training
 7. Farming update-Tim Janssen
 - Good spring with good prices
 - Processing plant for raising hemp. Lots of regulations and security issues with growing hemp and marijuana. Not a ton of acreage dedicated to it.
 - Farm prices are good
 - Labor and parts shortages
 8. Automotive update-Tom Allen
 - Shortage of vehicles on new car lots
 - Chip shortage
 - August will see an increase in new car sales and used car values might decrease
 - Committed to fireworks at Sterling State Park

9. Labor update-Dan Minton left meeting at 8:29

10. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-David Swartout

- Monroe Township has increase in growth opportunities for marijuana businesses

11. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker left meeting at 8:29 a.m.

12. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey was not able to present due to technical difficulties.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS—None

VII. INFORMATION—None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

IX. NEW BUSINESS—None

X. CITIZENS TIME—None

XI. NEXT MEETING – September 21, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by David Swartout, supported by Matt Vanisacker. Voice vote taken. Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 9:25 a.m. with no further business.