

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 14, 2021

- I. The December 14, 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation was held in the Doug Chaffin Assembly Room at First Merchants Bank located at 10 Washington Street in the city of Monroe, Michigan. Chairman Oberleiter called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

- II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Kim Comerzan, Stacey Goans, Tim Janssen, Tracy Oberleiter, Randy Richardville (left at 10:33 a.m.), David Swartout and Matt Vanisacker

ABSENT: Mike Baker, Barry Buschmann, Scot Laskey, Dan Minton, Tom Allen (All excused)

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

- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by David Swartout, seconded by Tim Janssen to approve the December 14, 2021 agenda as presented. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (09/14/2021 – Regular Meeting)

Motion by Kim Comerzan, seconded by Matt Vanisacker to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented, and waive the reading thereof. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

- V. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY/TREASURER

Motion by David Swartout, supported by Matt Vanisacker to elect the same officers for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer as are currently serving to serve again in 2022.

After discussion and confirmation that all members will accept the nomination, Chairman Oberleiter opened the floor for any further nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer for 2022.

No other nominations were offered. Nominations were closed.

Randy Richardville asked if the motion could be amended to “cast a unanimous vote” for the same officers for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer as are currently serving to serve in 2022. Both the maker and support agreed to the amendment.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Officers for 2022 are as follows: Tracy Oberleiter/Chairman, Barry Buschmann, Vice-Chairman and Tom Allen as Secretary/Treasurer.

VI. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. COVID 19 Monroe County Update-Kim Comerzan
  - Things are starting to get back to normal with numbers trending down
  - 18.5% positivity rate; 4,000 tests in the last 7 days
  - March 14, 2020 was the 1<sup>st</sup> case reported
  - Community transmission is still high; 32 hospitalizations in the last 7 days and 732 confirmed cases in the last 7 days
  - Vaccinated = 53.8% with 1<sup>st</sup> shot and 47.0 with 2<sup>nd</sup> shot (not including 5-11 year olds)
  - Omicron variant is a factor and it's extremely infectious but illnesses are mild
2. Michigan Works update-Stacy Goans
  - People collecting unemployment are required to register for work again
  - More traffic coming into the Michigan Works center
  - Lots of jobs but not lots of people applying
  - Machine Maintenance program starting; 2 nights a week and it's free. Having a hard time finding applicants
  - SEMCA Clean Slate program gets rid of some felonies or misdemeanors on job applicant's records so they don't have to put it on their job application in an effort to help people get jobs. The process is slow and the program **may** end in June. Some offenses are not eligible. Cost for expungement of an offense is up so this program helps.
  - Unemployment rate in the state is 4.6% and in Monroe County it's 5.3%
3. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker—Absent/No Report
4. Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team update-In Barry Buschmann's absence, Tracy Oberleiter gave the report.
  - Committee is busy planning the winter seminar
  - Delivering the message about the good works of the BDC and working with communities. Bedford Twp. and Frenchtown Twp. already and Monroe Twp. is next
5. Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Launch 734 Pillar Team update-Matt Vanisacker
  - Group has contracted with Source Link who puts data onto a web platform. Generates and collects data from entrepreneurs that call in.
  - Meeting of Resource Partners in January. Official launch in May.
  - Hiring and Entrepreneur in Residence (P/T contract position). Hoping to do this in January.
  - Currently working with 4 companies
6. Monroe County Link Project update-Matt Vanisacker
  - Prepare for Investment Seminar
    - Solar is possibly the topic for spring
    - Updating Streamlining Guide
    - Looking to do presentations to Dundee Twp., Berlin Twp. and South Rockwood
  - Talent Development

- CTE courses beginning
  - Lakestone Digital handling marketing and social media
  - Beautification efforts ongoing. County is applying for grant for rail project.
7. Farming update-Tim Janssen
    - Shipping out corn
    - Nitrogen costs, fuel costs & capital costs are all up
    - Prices are strong for crops
    - Solar is the big thing in the County right now
    - Windmill representative comes once a week to talk to him about leasing ground
  8. ProMedica Matching Funds @ BDC update-Matt Vanisacker
    - Possibly expanding the scope of the fund
    - Three potential business ventures in the hopper: Music, Hot Sauce and Travel
  9. Pitch & Pour Event on 9-14-21 update-Matt Vanisacker
    - Approximately 60 people attended. Had to move inside Pavlov's due to the weather
    - There were 4 pitches. TCF Threads won.
  10. BDC Open House on 9-22-21 for 9 Washington Street update-Matt Vanisacker
    - The building is filling up
    - Village of Dundee is talking about using the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
    - Directions Credit Union is using the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
  11. 9-30-21 EDC sponsored Monroe County's Program for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 presentation by Michael Bosanac at the River Raisin Battlefield Theater-Tracy Oberleiter
    - Very well attended event
  12. 11-3-21 BDC Focus on the Future Presentation at MCCC-Matt Vanisacker
    - New ProMedica hospital possibly in 2025
  13. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-Dave Swartout & Randy Richardville
    - County is running well with a balanced budget and spending at a level which is less than 10 years ago
    - Road Commission will have a new opening
    - Kudos to Mr. Bosanac
    - 100 mile bike path progressing
    - MCOP has started a Food Bank at the MCCC
  14. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey—Absent/No Report

#### VII. COMMUNICATIONS-

1. Letter dated October 21, 2021 from Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, regarding Board of Commissioner approval for reappointments of Ms. Kim Comerzan and Ms. Stacey Goans.

#### VIII. INFORMATION –

2022 Meeting Schedule: March 8, June 14, September 13 & December 13 at 8:00 a.m. unless otherwise changed due to conflict with Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Koffee Klub schedule.

#### IX. OLD BUSINESS –None

- X. NEW BUSINESS—None
- XI. CITIZENS TIME –Chairman Oberleiter commented that the subcommittees are busy all the time and are a “Think Tank” for the BDC & EDC
- XII. NEXT MEETING –March 8, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT –  
Motion to adjourn by David Swartout, supported by Matt Vanisacker. Voice vote taken. Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 11:27 a.m. with no further business.