

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

I. Chairman Oberleiter called the Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 in Monroe, Michigan, to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Kim Comerzan (left at 10:46 a.m.), Tim Janssen, Scot Laskey (arrived at 9:07 a.m.), Tracy Oberleiter, David Swartout and Matt Vanisacker

ABSENT: Tom Allen, Mike Baker, Barry Buschmann, Stacey Goans, Dan Minton and Randy Richardville (all excused)

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Kim Comerzan, supported by Matt Vanisacker to approve the September 14, 2021 Agenda as presented. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (06/08/2021 – Regular Meeting)

Motion by David Swartout, supported by Tim Janssen to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting, as presented, and waive the reading thereof. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

V. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. COVID 19 Monroe County Update-Kim Comerzan

- 10.7% positivity rate currently.
- 44-46% of the County has the first shot and 43% have the second shot
- Still continuing to vaccinate
- Health Department has no interest in issuing mask mandates
- It's still a good idea to mask, social distance and get vaccinated
- 3rd dose versus booster vaccine=3rd dose is at the 28 day mark and a person did not develop enough antibodies. Mostly for immunocompromised people. Booster is given at the 6-8 month mark following the 1st two shots.
- She continues to look at the immunization registry for vaccination rate.
- Rapid antigen is a good test for symptomatic people. PCR test is the nasal swab test and it's a good test.
- Mu variant is in California

Discussion commenced.

2. Michigan Works update-Stacy Goans was absent so no report was given.

3. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker was absent so Chairman Oberleiter gave

the report. Mike has been working with Matt Vanisacker and Tracy Oberleiter and assisting with other efforts outside of this committee. ITC Holdings is doing a large investment into infrastructure which including transmission lines.

4. Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team update-Barry Buschmann was absent so Chairman Oberleiter gave the report.

- September 30, 2021 Planning & Zoning Seminar at 6:00 p.m. River Raisin Battlefield Visitors Center It will be Livestreamed. Keynote speaker will be Michael Bosanac, County Administrator/CFO will be speaking on the American Rescue Plan and Monroe County. \$29million to be received by Monroe County.

Discussion commenced regarding LaPlaisance Corridor status

5. Labor update-Dan Minton was absent so no report was given.

6. Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Launch 734 Pillar Team update-Matt Vanisacker

- Logo design by Emily Phillips
- Events:
 - Pitch & Pour tonight at 6:00 p.m. at Pavlov's Brewing in Temperance. 55 attendees and 6 "Pitchers" will attend. It will be held outside. Taco Bar available.
 - Open House at 9 Washington Street

7. Automotive industry update-Tom Allen was absent so Chairman Oberleiter read the report that was submitted via email

- The computer wafer chip shortage, according to the manufacturer, will continue through all of 2022. Will probably have new additional plants online early 2023 (1st or 2nd Qtr.). (Note: Will be breaking ground next year for ultra-fast electric charging station.)
- The wafer chip shortage has changed the dynamics of inventory management for the future. Our industry trade journal is stating that we will not see those large new car/truck inventories at new car auto-dealers ever again. The carry cost is too great.
- Labor shortage will continue for the skill trades, thus driving up the labor/material cost.
- All manufacturers are headed for all electric cars; full-size trucks will follow. Cadillac will be the lead division for GM going all electric for cars only. Full-size trucks will soon follow. Toyota is going 100% hybrid in near future.
- Alternative energy (Hydrogen/Fusion) are two different types of vehicles are being tested. GM & Toyota on one source. GM & Honda on a different fuel source. Other manufacturers were not mentioned in our trade journal.
- Future will be exciting in our industry.

8. Monroe County Link Project update-Matt Vanisacker

- Educators from the Community College & ISD collaborating on a Central HUB
- Forming industry recognized credentials for High School for employers
- Tourism Bureau adopted the brand

- MI Cornerstone has Resolution of Support in 6 municipalities
- Lakestone Digital took over the digital marketing
- By the 4th quarter looking to hire a Tourism Director

9. Farming update-Tim Janssen

- Hyperinflation has hit
- Grain costs have risen
- Getting labor is difficult also. Paying \$20/hour. Trying to stay local but it's difficult
- 42nd year of raising tomatoes in his business
- Crops are good and farmers are getting good prices
- At his farm Covid-19 is worse now than before

Discussion commenced about solar panels & windmills in fields

10. ProMedica Matching Funds @ BDC update-Matt Vanisacker

- 4-5 companies are interested in the fund
- 1-2 will probably be coming before the Committee
- Travel industry app
- Tech based music

11. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-David Swartout

- Discussed supply chain issues and the effect on building materials
- He attended the press conference for VIPER Task Force that the Sheriff's Office held—5 people arrested for human trafficking
- Labor is a problem and will affect businesses wanting to come into the County
- Monroe Township—Marijuana businesses coming in and ordinance issues which have grandfather clauses and some of the businesses were allowed in without an ordinance

12. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey—Nothing new to report that has not already been covered.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS—None

VII. INFORMATION—None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS—None

IX. NEW BUSINESS—

1. Board member terms expiring on December 31, 2021: Kim Comerzan and Stacey Goans. For discussion and vote. Recommendation will be forwarded to the Monroe County Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Scot Laskey, supported by Matt Vanisacker to approve the reappointments of Ms. Kim Comerzan and Ms. Stacey Goans for another six-year term.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

X. CITIZENS TIME—None

XI. NEXT MEETING – December 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by Matt Vanisacker, supported by Scot Laskey. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.
Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 10:52 a.m. with no further business.