

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2022

- I. The December 13, 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation was held in the 4th Floor Board Room at First Merchants Bank located at 10 Washington Street in the city of Monroe, Michigan. Chairman Oberleiter called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

- II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Tom Allen (left at 9:48 a.m.), Barry Buschmann, Kim Comerzan, Stacey Goans, Tim Janssen, Scot Laskey, Tracy Oberleiter and David Swartout

ABSENT: Mike Baker, Randy Richardville, Matt Vanisacker and Dan Minton (All excused)

Mr. Barry Kinsey, Monroe County Community College was also in attendance.

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

- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Kim Comerzan, supported by David Swartout to approve the December 13, 2022 Organizational Meeting agenda as presented. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (09/13/2022 – Regular Meeting)

Motion by David Swartout, supported by Scot Laskey to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented, and waive the reading thereof. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

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

After discussion and confirmation that all current members will accept the nominations, Chairman Oberleiter opened the floor for any further nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer for 2023.

No other nominations were offered. Nominations were closed.

Motion by Tom Allen, supported by Scot Laskey to cast a unanimous vote for Tracy Oberleiter for Chairman, Barry Buschmann for Vice-Chairman and Tom Allen as Secretary/Treasurer for 2023.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

- VI. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Automotive Industry Update-Tom Allen

- Dealerships-Huge movement of selling dealerships to large dealer groups
- Future of Electric Vehicles (EV)
 - New thing = Hydrogen fuel cells. 10 years in the making. Hydrogen fuel cells would be more expensive than EV.

- GM is positioning itself to be leader in North America in batteries
 - Tennessee, Georgia and Michigan are building plants
 - There is still a raw material shortage. EPA shut down mining of raw materials.
 - Joint venture between GM & NAS (out of Norway), GM & Honda, GM & Toyota
2. COVID 19 Monroe County Update-Kim Comerzan
 - Covid19 is still here. Medium positivity level of 11.8% positivity
 - Bivalent booster targets the original strain and the original Omicron variant
 - Call 734-240-7800 to schedule a booster
 - RSV, flu and upper respiratory viruses are on the rise
 3. Michigan Works update-Stacy Goans
 - Unemployment rate in Monroe County = 4.4%
 - Still have Clean Slate program to apply to have non-violent felonies expunged.
Application online at semca.org/cleanslate
 - Still have training programs
 - Sterile processing class; 50% already employed
 - Open house in January and new class in February
 - She is still looking for a Fiscal Manager for her department
 4. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker (Absent-no report)
 5. Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team update-Barry Buschmann
 - 2 programs—Solar & EV
 - What to do differently to draw more people next year
 - Updated Streamlining Book
 - Monroe Link 2.0 is going forward
 - Tracy Oberleiter commented that Barry Kinsey would be a good fit for this group
 - Training of Planning Commission in various municipalities
 - Who wants to get more involved and who wants to stay more rural
 6. Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Launch 734 Pillar Team update-Tracy Oberleiter
 - Looking for “Entrepreneur in Residence” which would be a part-time job
 7. Monroe County Link Project update-Tracy Oberleiter
 - Re-engineering to Link Plan 2.0
 8. Agriculture/Farming update-Tim Janssen
 - New farm bill
 - Crops came off well, especially corn
 - Prices holding right now

- Diesel fuel shortage problematic
 - Can't get good hedge on fuel
 - Last year 80,000 gallons was \$1.90/gallon
 - Nitrogen from natural gas prices are high
 - U.S. buying farms and letting them sit. Same as Sweden and Norway.
 - Vegetable production out west is a problem. There will be a problem with lettuce in the future
 - Very difficult to do business in Ag right now. Labor is hard to find.
 - Full effect of inflation will really hit next year
9. ProMedica Matching Funds @ BDC update-Tracy Oberleiter
- ZoomBroom business has really flourished
10. Labor Update-Dan Minton (Absent—no report)
11. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-Dave Swartout
- Board of Commissioners approved succession plan for Mike Bosanac effective 2023
 - County has AA credit rating
 - Board of Commissioners approved 2023 budget
 - MCOP Board opened Health Hub on the east side
12. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey--Passed

VII. COMMUNICATIONS-

1. Letter dated December 9, 2022 from Deputy Clerk, Lisa Sanders, regarding Board of Commissioner approval for the reappointment of Mr. Scot Laskey.

VIII. INFORMATION –

Consideration of Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule:

March 14, June 13, September 12 & December 12 at 8:00 a.m.

Motion by Tracy Oberleiter, supported by Barry Buschmann to accept and place on file the 2023 Meeting schedule as listed.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IX. OLD BUSINESS –None

X. NEW BUSINESS—None

XI. CITIZENS TIME –

XII. NEXT MEETING –March 14, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT –

Chairman Oberleiter adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m. with no further business.