

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2022

- I. Chairman Oberleiter called the Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation held at the First Merchants Bank Headquarters at 10 Washington Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161 on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 to order at 9:18 a.m.
- II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT		ABSENT
Tom Allen	David Swartout	Barry Buschmann (Excused)
Mike Baker	Matt Vanisacker	Kim Comerzan (Excused)
Stacey Goans		Dan Minton (Excused)
Tim Janssen		Scot Laskey
Tracy Oberleiter		Randy Richardville

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

Jim Jacobs, Architect and Barry Kinsey, Director of Business Development MCCC and David Uhl, Frenchtown Township Public Safety & Economic Director also attended.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Tom Allen, supported by Dave Swartout to approve the September 13, 2022 Agenda as amended by Chairman Oberleiter to include item 1A, Dave Uhl presentation and item 6A, Monroe County Business Alliance report.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (06/14/2022 Regular Meeting)

Motion by Tom Allen, supported by Matt Vanisacker to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 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 (Excused-No report)

1A. Presentation by David Uhl, Frenchtown Twp. Public Safety and Economic Development Director

- New Board of Trustees in Frenchtown is very pro-development and has given him Carte Blanche approval to streamline

Frenchtown. New motto: “Frenchtown is Open for Business”

- Planning on filling up the mall and selling lots around the mall. Old K-Mart is going to be a storage facility
- His duties include: Public Safety—Liaison with Sheriff's Office, Fire Department-Union Negotiation, Parks and Rec, Citizens' complaints
- Chipotle and other businesses are opening up on the old La-Z-Boy site
- Brest Bay Marina has a new owner
- Jim Jacobs chimed in and said the new Frenchtown Board does appear to be more aggressive about controlling your own destiny

2. Michigan Works! update-Stacy Goans

- She is hiring a Fiscal Manager
- Busy Fall semester at MCCC--Truck driver training and Sterile processing class starting
- Many grant opportunities
- Finding employees is still a challenge
- More interest in apprenticeships, earn & learn
- Barry Kinsey commented-that the MCCC is offering an Electrical Program--demand for the trades, 4 year program

3. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker

- Looking forward to the winter
- Construction season right now
- Keep MGU in the loop if you are building
- Parts & Material shortages are impacting them as well
- Lots of emergency work right now
- Getting a little better with contractors getting work (it was a problem)
- Big part of Priority Development Areas on I-75

4. Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team update-Matt Vanisacker

- Goal of education for municipalities in the County
- SEMCOG has a lot of information
- Pillar Team—6 PDA's bringing to shovel ready position
- Updating Streamlining Guide
- Monroe County Business Alliance=Chamber of Commerce, BDC and Tourism Bureau

5. Planning & Zoning Seminar on Electric Vehicles “EV” on 10-12-22 at MCCC-Matt Vanisacker (combined with #4)

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

- Ralph Wilson Foundation \$100,000 grant. Nano Corporation meet with aspiring entrepreneurs
- 38 companies currently receiving services
- Ralph Wilson Corporation interested in funding more
- On the Registry of incubators

6A. Business Alliance Report-Matt Vanisacker (already mentioned in #4)

7. Monroe County Link Project update-Matt Vanisacker

- Have started discussion with some of the Captains; they are 5 years in
- Discussing Link Plan 2.0
- Looking at it with a new lens
- Develop more PDA's

8. Farming update-Tim Janssen

- Lots of land changes going on including rental properties
- Yields are going to be okay
- Going to get a lot of foreign produce coming here
- Kind of nerve wracking in the AG business and it's hard to plan ahead
- Waiting for parts to fix machines
- Smaller operations—doesn't make much sense to buy more ground

9. ProMedica Matching Funds @ BDC update-Matt Vanisacker

- Accepting applications
- Open to more industries
- Vital Tech and Zoom Broom are two recipients

10. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-Dave Swartout

- Sheriff's Office—Approved ISD Sheriff Resource Officer-Sargent to coordinate all positions
- Commissioner wages, Road Commissioner wages and elected non-judicial officials wages were set

11. Labor update-Dan Minton (Excused –No Report)

12. Automotive industry update-Tom Allen

- Computer chip issue resolved
- War in Ukraine—50% of neon is in Ukraine

- More chips are coming in
- Infrastructure is not there for electric cars
- Petroleum cars still for 25 years
- Automotive industry is being pushed into a new era. Vast changes are coming and the industry will have to adapt to change.
- Jim Jacobs added that the EV focus is switching. Expansion in dealership to add EV charging stations.

13. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey (Absent—No report)

VI. COMMUNICATIONS- None

VII. INFORMATION – None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None

IX. NEW BUSINESS—None

X. CITIZENS TIME – None

XI. NEXT MEETING – December 13, 2022

XII. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by Tom Allen, supported by Matt Vanisacker. Voice vote taken. Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 10:56 a.m. with no further business.