

MONROE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2023

- I. Chairman Oberleiter called the Regular Meeting of the Monroe County Economic Development Corporation held at the Monroe Bank & Trust Headquarters at 10 Washington Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161 on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 to order at 8:04 a.m.

- II. Roll call by Clerk as follows:

PRESENT: Mike Baker (left at 9:27 a.m.), Barry Buschmann, Stacey Goans, Tim Janssen, Scot Laskey (arrived at 8:12 a.m.), Tracy Oberleiter and Randy Richardville (arrived at 8:05 a.m.), David Swartout and Matt Vanisacker

ABSENT: Tom Allen, Kim Comerzan and Dan Minton (all excused)

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Barry Buschmann, supported by Matt Vanisacker to approve the March 14, 2023 agenda as presented.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (12/13/2022 – Organizational Meeting)

Motion by David Swartout, supported by Stacey Goans to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 Organizational Meeting, as presented, and waive the reading thereof.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

V. STAFF AND SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Michigan Works update-Stacy Goans

- Matt Vanisacker spoke on the Going Pro Talent Fund
 - More than \$530,000 awarded to 13 Monroe County companies
 - Affiliated with MI Works!
- Linda Betz taking over some of Matt's duties
- Still offering some of their training
 - Truck driving is most popular
 - 2nd Sterile Processing class started
- Resource Fair on March 23rd from 10-3
 - People have barriers to employment such as substance abuse disorder
 - Find help to their barriers

- Job Fair on April 27th in person at MI Works!
 - April 13—Statewide Virtual Job Fair—Youth and Summer Jobs
2. Utilities update-Michigan Gas Utilities-Mike Baker
 - Construction continues—Expand as needed
 - Damage prevention—folks are not calling MISS DIG
 - They were at the Home Show sharing the message of MISS DIG
 - Coming into the traditional construction season
 3. Monroe County Developers Streamlining Guide/Prepare for Investment Pillar Team update-Barry Buschmann
 - Working into Monroe Link Plan 2.0. Little hiatus until 2.0 starts
 - Next month work with consultant for Monroe Link Plan 2.0
 - April/May will start and take about 10 months to be complete
 - No Spring event because working on Link 2.0
 - Tracy Oberleiter said the process in Monroe County makes it easy to present to business considering coming here
 4. Entrepreneurship & Innovation Task Force/Launch 734 Pillar Team update-Matt Vanisacker
 - Today is Matt's last official day with Business Alliance Group
 - He is moving into a job with the City of Monroe as the Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development
 - Will be working on storefronts in downtown neighborhoods
 - Will try to facilitate Matt staying on the EDC Board for the City of Monroe
 - Launch 734
 - New Entrepreneur in Residence as of February 1
 - Monroe County trying to emulate Lean Rocket Lab
 - A couple of successful companies have received services
 - If anyone knows of an entrepreneur, tell them to visit the website
 5. Farming update-Tim Janssen—
 - Commodities market going down
 - Greenup guys are busy
 - Easier to get parts this year compared to last year
 - \$6-8k per acre for good farm land
 - Property taxes are going up by 5%
 - Plastic prices are going up for drain tile
 - Not much in Monroe County for sale that investment groups want
 - Monroe County lags in farm ground sales
 - Discussion commenced about solar farms
 6. ProMedica Matching Funds @ BDC update-Matt Vanisacker
 - Slowing down; ProMedica put a freeze on
 - Mid-April will be looking for a decision on what ProMedica will do
 - Zoom Broom—submitted 2nd funding to them--\$650,000 generated in funding
 - Shipments of the product in May

7. Monroe County Board of Commissioners update-Dave Swartout & Randy Richardville
 - Commissioner Swartout mentioned that MCOP just got its audit
 - Commissioner Richardville talked about the Operations Meeting scheduled for tomorrow
 - Stacey Goans hiring an Accountant—they have 18 grant funded programs
 - National Crisis for Mental Health Services—Critical Response Services giving a presentation tomorrow at the meeting
8. Consulting/General Business comments-Scot Laskey
 - Mike Baker helped him with an issue with a group home
 - Asked if there will be any more tapings of Monroe County, Inc. and Tracy Oberleiter said no.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS- None

VII. INFORMATION – None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS –

- 4th Annual Expo on April 25th—Monroe County ISD—exposing students to what careers are available in Monroe County

IX. NEW BUSINESS—None

X. CITIZENS TIME – None

XI. NEXT MEETING – June 13, 2023

XII. ADJOURNMENT –

Motion to adjourn by Scot Laskey, supported by Dave Swartout. Voice vote taken. Motion carried. Adjournment by Chairman Oberleiter at 9:35 a.m. with no further business.