

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)

CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage

DATE/TIME: May 20, 2015

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merri Berlage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Heurman``	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RJ Winkelhake
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Rutz	<input type="checkbox"/> John O'Boyle	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Dittmar		

A quorum was established.

Other Board members:

Others: Linda Delvaux, Lisa McCarthy, Dan Reimer.

1. **Review and approve minutes for the March 24, 2015 Development & Planning Committee meeting** – Rick Dittmar made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Development & Planning Committee meeting. Seconded by Robert Heurman and motion passed.
2. **Citizens' Comments**
3. **Unfinished Business**
 - a) **FY2014 Strategic goals** – Merri Berlage reviewed each of the Committee's strategic goals. Highway 20 4-lane project ongoing; rail transportation ongoing; IDOT listening meeting will be held Friday, May 22, Randy, Ron and Dan to attend listening meeting; development/revenue generating ideas ongoing, Brownfield grant application no action; grant opportunities and capital improvement plan no action; capital improvement plan to be removed from list, investigate grant opportunities to remain on list.
 - b) **Update on Enterprise Zone** – Merri Berlage provided an update. The Freeport/Stephenson Enterprise Zone Board held a meeting on Thursday, May 14 to discuss the Enterprise Zone application process. Not all of the county mayors attended. The Board is considering using a consultant; the application cost would be \$80,000-\$120,000. Steve Rutz raised concern about the cost of the application process. Berlage raised concern about not including interested villages or cities in the application and using all the money in the Enterprise Zone reserves. The Committee discussed the importance of having the enterprise zone continue in Jo Daviess County. The next Enterprise Zone meeting will be held May 22, 2015.
 - c) **Discussion and possible action regarding the Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee** – No updates at this time.
 - d) **Update from Zoning Ad-Hoc Committee** – Linda Delvaux handed out a compilation of the Committee's work and recommendations for each of the zoning issues. Delvaux asked that the draft be placed on the Development & Planning Committee meeting agenda for June. The process would be for the Committee to review the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee and then make a recommendation to the County Board. The County Board would then consider a resolution to send the recommendations to the Zoning Board of Appeals and public hearing.
4. **New Business**
 - a) **Discussion on the possibility of new economic development projects** – Berlage reported that she was questioned if Jo Daviess County is doing enough to promote economic development. The Committee discussed economic development and current initiatives. Lisa McCarthy reported on TCEDA economic development efforts. McCarthy offered insights into issues being experienced in Jo Daviess County in regards to attracting new businesses including existing facilities versus new construction; limited number of ready business or industrial parks, lack of infrastructure; and access to a 4-lane highway, river or train transportation. RJ Winkelhake asked McCarthy to provide the County with a list of things we should be considering to help improve economic development. McCarthy suggested that a brochure could

be developed including available land and buildings. McCarthy indicated that a grant maybe available to cover the cost of printing and she will do more research.

5. Staff Reports

a) Building & Zoning

- i. **Monthly Report** – Linda Delvaux reported that building permits are ahead of prior year at this time. IEI Barge was issued a permit and work has begun. TKI in the process of completing the State permitting process. Casey's project will be starting. Guest accommodations are completed and went well. Delvaux is researching electronic payment methods and working with the State's Attorney office on violations.

b) Economic Development

- i. **CVB Monthly Report** – Not present
- ii. **TCEDA Monthly Report** – Lisa McCarthy, TCEDA Executive Director handed out her monthly report and reviewed several items with the Committee. Steve Rutz asked McCarthy about new housing or apartments in the Thomson area. McCarthy is working to make contacts with banks and developers. McCarthy reported that initial hiring at prison expected to be 150, with a goal of 300 employees by December 1, 2015.

8. Citizens' Comments –

9. Board Member Concerns –

The next Development & Planning Committee meeting will be Monday, June 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Robert Heurman made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 pm, seconded by Steve Rutz and motion passed.