

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)
CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage
DATE/TIME: July 22, 2014

PRESENT:

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

Other Board members:

Others: Linda Delvaux, Dan Reimer, Ron Mapes, Lisa McCarthy, Mike Dittmar and Mayor Don Schiable.

1. **Minutes** – John O'Boyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2014 committee meeting. Seconded by Robert Heurman and motion passed.
2. **Citizens' Comments.** Michael Dittmar asked if he could speak when agenda item 4e regarding the enterprise zone is discussed.

3. Staff Reports

- a) **Building and Zoning** - Linda Delvaux, Building and Zoning Administrator, reported that there are several ongoing investigations into nuisance/zoning violations that she is working with the States Attorney's Office. Building permit numbers for the 2014 year are at 115 permits to date. Delvaux reported on guest accommodations renewals for 2015 and the recently adopted changes in the quest accommodations ordinance will be implemented with the upcoming license year. Delvaux reported that she has received an application from Arc Design on behalf of Casey's General Store on a parcel adjacent to the City of Galena that will be on the August Zoning Board agenda. Delvaux reported that RJ Winkelhake is planning to schedule the first Text Amendment Ad-hoc Committee in August and is working on a definite date. Merri Berlage requested that the committee be copied on emails regarding the meeting agendas.
- b) **Economic Development** - Katherine Walker, CVB Executive Director, provided a written report. The report stated that The New York Times did a story about good places to live and looked at counties across America. They looked at all 3,135 counties in the U.S. and rated them on median income, college education, unemployment rates, % of people on disability, life expectancy and obesity. Jo Daviess County came in #8 in all of the Illinois Counties and #359 nationwide, just missing being in the top 10% nationally and came in at the top 11%.

Lisa McCarthy, Director of TCEDA, reported that TCEDA is currently assisting seven companies from outside our state who are looking to build new businesses in this region. One was referred to the SBDC for business plan assistance and has potential for local funding. The others have been assisted with grant information and other incentive information. Four of the potential businesses have identified appropriate sites in Jo Daviess County. TCEDA, the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) and the Village of Thomson will sponsor a series of three workshops to train businesses on how to register for federal contracts for the potential opening of Thomson Prison. The sessions are August 21 and 28 and September 4 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Manny's in Savanna.

4. Unfinished Business

- a) **FY2014 Strategic goals.** Nothing new to report
- b) **Update on touring Revolving Loan Fund facility recipients, Hoskins Lumber and Assisted Living in Elizabeth.** Berlage suggested three dates for the committee to choose from, September 3rd, 5th or 8th. The committee decided to schedule the tour for September 5, 2015 at 10:00 am.
- c) **Update on Enterprise Zone.** Nothing new to report

- d) **Discussion and possible action regarding the Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee.** Ron Smith reported that he has been contacting individuals to see if they would be interested in serving on the CEDS committee and hopes to have appointments ready for the next County Board meeting.
- e) **Discussion and possible action regarding applying for inclusion in a new enterprise zone.** Ron Mapes, Jo Daviess County representative to the Freeport Stephenson County Enterprise Zone provided a report regarding the last enterprise zone meeting. It was discussed that Sunflower Enterprises can not be brought into the Freeport Stephenson County Enterprise Zone until the City of East Dubuque is accepted into the enterprise zone. At the enterprise zone meeting it was determined that East Dubuque still must complete an additional application and meet certain criteria before they can be considered for acceptance into the Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone. Hanover Mayor Don Schiable who is a member of Freeport Stephenson County Enterprise Zone Board discussed some of the history of the enterprise zone and some of the criteria needed to qualify to be in an enterprise zone. It was discussed that the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council has a lot of information that maybe be beneficial when making application for inclusion in the enterprise zone. The Committee discussed the expiration date for the current Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise. It was unclear if the enterprise zone expired at the end of 2016 or at the end of 2020. The County Board minutes indicated the expiration of the Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone is December of 2020. Berlage reported talked to Betty Stienert regarding the possibility of her working with Jo Daviess County to submit an application to the State to establish a new enterprise zone for Jo Daviess County. Berlage reported that NIU could also work with Jo Daviess County in completing the application; the fee would be approximately \$6,000. Elizabeth Mayor, Mike Dittmar, stated that if Jo Daviess County would apply for an enterprise zone that the Village of Elizabeth would like to be included and would be willing to cost share the expenses if needed. Mayor Dittmar suggested that the committee reach out to the other mayors in the County about inclusion as well. The committee discussed that they would like to attend the next Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone meeting. Berlage will ask when this next meeting is scheduled so the Development and Planning Committee can attend and post an agenda to meet requirements of the OMA.

5. New Business

- a) **Update from Ron Mapes on Freeport/Stephenson County Enterprise Zone meeting held on July 18, 2014.** See above.

- 6. **Other Business** - Berlage asked committee members for the next committee meeting to bring back ideas for economic development in Jo Daviess County.
- 7. **Citizens' Comments** - Mayor Dittmar informed the committee that there is a monthly Mayor's meeting in different municipalities and asked that a representative from the County Board attend to help with communication. Dittmar suggested that the County look into the possibility of hiring an Economic Development Director.

8. Board Member Concerns

Next meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 @ 7:00 pm.

Ron Smith made a motion to adjourn at 9:32 pm, seconded by Robert Heurman and motion passed.