

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)

CHAIRPERSON: Merri Berlage

DATE/TIME: August 26, 2014

PRESENT:

Merri Berlage

John O'Boyle

Robert Heuerman

Steve Rutz

Ron Smith

RJ Winkelhake

Other Board members:

Others: Linda Delvaux, Dan Reimer, Lisa McCarthy and Beth Baranski.

1. **Minutes** – John O'Boyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2014 committee meeting and the June 17, 2014 special meeting. Seconded by Robert Heuerman and motion passed.

2. **Citizens' Comments** - Beth Baranski discussed a Regional Conservation Partnership Program Application. The project is titled the Driftless Region Integrated Partnership and the lead partner is Trout Unlimited, Inc. The primary resource concern for this project is water quality degradation in surface waters of the Mississippi River Basin's Driftless Area watersheds, which are located in Northwest Illinois, Northeast Iowa, Southwest Minnesota and Southwest Wisconsin. Baranski reported that she has been working with County Highway Engineer Steve Keeffer on a list of possible County road projects that could be included in the grant application. This item will be on the Public Works Committee agenda.

3. Staff Reports

a) **Building and Zoning** - Linda Delvaux, Building and Zoning Administrator, reported that she continues to work with the States Attorney's office on investigating nuisance/zoning violations. Delvaux reported that 2015 guest accommodations renewal applications will include the recently adopted changes for the upcoming license year. The Building and Zoning department is working with the Treasurer's office and the CVB on guest accommodations compliance and reporting of hotel/motel tax. Delvaux reported that three zoning requests will be considered at the August ZBA meeting. The requests include a Casey's General Store in Galena and a variance for a lot at the Savanna Depot by Green Star Growing. The State of Illinois has opened the window for medical marijuana grower's application from September 8th to September 20th. Delvaux reported that the Ad-Hoc Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment Committee will be holding their next meeting on September 11, 2014 at 5:00 pm at the Hanover Facility. Delvaux reported that her part time secretary who was recently hired will be leaving and she will be advertising to fill the vacant position.

b) **Economic Development** - Lisa McCarthy, TCEDA Executive Director, reported that TCEDA is working with eight new companies that are looking to establish businesses in this region. Five of the companies have listed sites located in Jo Daviess County. McCarthy reported that the first of three procurement workshops for the Thomson Prison had 48 businesses attend. The second workshop will be on Thursday, August 28th. The next TCEDA board meeting will be November 6, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Midwest Medical Center and they will be accepting nominations for board members. McCarthy reported that John Cox is working with Representative Stewart on drafting a bill for funding the completion of the Highway 20 four lane project. McCarthy reviewed a power point that highlighted some of TCEDA's recent plans, goals and accomplishments. McCarthy asked the committee if the County would again consider providing funding for TCEDA in 2015, McCarthy suggested \$10,000. In 2014 the County contributed \$2,500 to TCEDA. The Committee discussed increasing that amount to \$10,000 for FY2015. **John O'Boyle made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 to TCEDA in FY2015, to be paid from the Economic Development Investment Fund 018. Seconded by Robert Heuerman motion passed with Ron Smith abstaining.**

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 reported that Hoskins Lumber is unable to provide a tour at this time but the Assisted Living Facility in Elizabeth could do a tour the first week of September and a NICA Golden Meal lunch would follow at the Welcome Inn. The current plan is to schedule the tour on either September 3rd, 4th or 5th.
- c) **Update on Enterprise Zone.** Berlage reported that she understood a meeting of the Freeport Stephenson County Enterprise Zone would be scheduled for August 1st; however a meeting has not yet been scheduled. Ron Smith discussed the status of the East Dubuque application for inclusion in the enterprise zone and it is unclear if the application has been received by the State. Berlage encouraged members of the Development and Planning Committee to attend the next enterprise zone meeting.
- d) **Discussion and possible action regarding the Jo Daviess County CEDS Committee.** Ron Smith discussed a letter that was just received from Theresa Wittenauer, Executive Director, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council regarding requirements and options for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee. Berlage asked the committee to review the letter and this item will be placed on next months agenda.
- e) **Discussion and possible action regarding applying for inclusion in a new enterprise zone.** Berlage reported that it is her understanding that there are other areas that would be interested in applying for a new enterprise zone as well. Berlage discussed the importance of having members of the Committee attend the next Enterprise Zone meeting.

5. New Business

- a) **Discussion and possible action on building code concerns.** Berlage discussed that the Building and Zoning Department recently sent out a memo to contractors in reference to building codes for Jo Daviess County and some contractors have expressed concerns with some of the building codes that are in place. Berlage and Delvaux discussed an ISO audit that Jo Daviess County recently participated in. The audit looks at such things as what codes does the entity have in place and required inspections. The audit results in a rating that can be used by insurance companies. The Committee asked if Andy Mensendike, Jo Daviess County Code Enforcement Officer could do some research and check with some of the equipment manufacturers and ask them about the building codes that have been adopted by Jo Daviess County.

6. Other Business

7. Citizens' Comments

- 8. **Board Member Concerns** – Steve Rutz stated that he would like to take a proactive approach on the decision of submitting an application for an enterprise zone. Rutz suggested that the committee ask Dan Paquette and Theresa Wittenauer from the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council to attend the September Development and Planning Committee meeting to discuss the criteria that needs to be met for an enterprise zone application and the requirements for a CEDS committee.

Next meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 @ 7:00 pm.

John O'Boyle made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 pm, seconded by Robert Heuerman and motion passed.