

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Steve McIntyre
DATE/TIME: March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beth Baranski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Legel	<input type="checkbox"/> Don Schaible
<input type="checkbox"/> Rod Brandt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve McIntyre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Schultz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Diedrick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rose Noble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Toot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Dittmar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fran Peterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Tison
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janelle Keeffer	<input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Raisbeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Tranel
<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Kevern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendrica Regez	

Others: Diane Gallagher and Dan Reimer

- 1. Call to Order** – Steve McIntyre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call** – A quorum of members was present.
- 3. Introductions**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - a) Review and approve minutes for the February 3, 2020 Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee meeting -**
John Schlutz moved to approve the minutes. Nick Tranel seconded. Motion passed.
- 5. Citizen’s Comments** – None
- 6. Unfinished Business**
 - a) Discussion and possible action on goals and vision for the Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee** –McIntyre noted that this was kept on the agenda from the February meeting to promote further discussion. No action was taken.
 - b) Discussion and possible action on a marketing plan for Jo Daviess County** –McIntyre noted that this was kept on the agenda from the February meeting to promote further discussion. No action was taken.
 - c) Discussion and possible action on a presentation of attracting the millennials-**
McIntyre noted that this had been an action item under Brandon Behlke, previous committee chair. No action was taken.
 - d) Discussion and possible action on identifying “shove ready” locations** –McIntyre asked for shovel ready locations. Highlights of the discussion included Legel introduced the database of available sites for development including buildings and sites, noting that many good sites were not for sale, and many existing sites lacked infrastructure with East Dubuque being the most promising.

The potential for creation of an industrial park, with discussion over whether the county wanted to become landlords, what resources the committee could pool, along with whether the anchor institutions or the industrial park came first. The committee also looked at the existing industrial and TIF areas including the LRA.

Legel offered to compile the requests for information to see what was missing before the next meeting.

Other topics included the discussion of fiber connections, the idea of parks and road improvements, and the thought that what is good for tourists is good for residents. Potential for a marketing plan was also discussed, as was the need for public art and daycare. The lack of public amenities, dating pool, and job opportunities were brought up as obstacles for development.

Committee members were asked to save these ideas for the next meeting with the suggestion that Dan Payette present on fiber at the next meeting.
No action was taken.

- e) **Discussion and possible action on a timetable for the Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee -No action.**

7. New Business

- a) **Discussion and possible action for supporting existing businesses within Jo Daviess County –Skipped**
- b) **Discussion and possible action for supporting new businesses and discuss obstacles that new businesses incur and try to minimize those obstacles –Skipped**
- c) **Discussion and possible action on request from the Social & Environmental Committee to refer the following assignments from the 2019 County Board Retreat to the Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee: Research opportunities/methods for increasing the County’s population and maintain a positive public image for living/working within the County –Discussion ensued on whether this fit within the mission of the committee. Many members agreed and then discussion moved to how this would happen, including lowering housing permitting fees, housing costs and more. Reimer shared economic data, permitting, and housing costs which showed an increase in permits overall in 2019, but fewer new home building permits compared to renovations or additions. They also noted that Jo Daviess County has some the lowest taxes in our part of the state.**
No formal action was taken.
- d) **Discussion and possible action on a request to amend the Jo Daviess County Zoning Ordinance to allow nurseries as a permitted use in an AG District –Mike Dittmar suggested that the regulations for greenhouses and nurseries no longer require a special use permit. Debate ensued over who would be responsible for changing this requirement for these and other home-based businesses, along with the infrastructure requirements and the other impacts. It was noted that any amendments to the zoning code would require not only a vote from the county board but also a public hearing by way of the zoning board.**

The committee agreed to revisit the topic in April and have testimony from the nursery owners and property owners.

8. Staff Reports

- a) **NWILED –Legel gave a staff report. She invited the committee to her annual meeting – Thursday March 12, 2020. She asked for help visiting new businesses and noted that they had recently hired a new staff person.**

- b) **Planning and Development** -Tison reported that the committee agreed to review the section of the comp plan for goals and objectives, and this will be brought to the Ad Hoc committee once the review was completed.

9. Citizens' Comments – None

10. Committee Concerns

11. Next regular meeting – the committee decided to schedule meetings on the first Monday of the month. The committee will meet again on Monday, April6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.