

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Steve McIntyre
DATE/TIME: July 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Others: Diane Gallagher and Dan Reimer

1. **Call to Order** – Steve McIntyre called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – A quorum of members was present.
3. **Introductions**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a) **Review and approve minutes for the March 2, 2020 Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee meeting** –
John Schultz moved to approve; Mike Dittmar seconded. Motion carried
5. **Citizen’s Comments** – None
6. **Unfinished Business**
 - a) **Discussion and possible action on goals and vision for the Ad-Hoc Economic Development Committee**
 - b) **Discussion of the items identified for business development from our last meeting:**
 - i) **Sites: Shovel ready sites needed**
 - ii) **Transportation: 4 lane highway, rail, river ports, and other infrastructures**
 - iii) **Connectivity: High Speed Internet/Cell coverage/and other connectivity needs**
 - iv) **Building Services: Utilities and other site infrastructure needs**
 - v) **Workforce: Education, training, attracting outside and inside workers**
 - vi) **Marketing: How to market our county being “ready”. Living Large in Rural America**
 - vii) **Business-Impeding ordinances**
 - viii) **Grants available to businesses in our area**

The committee reviewed each of these ideas and obstacles to business, and champions were appointed to research opportunities within these topics as follows:

- a) Sites: Janelle Keefer and Emily Legel
- b) Transportation: John Schultz
- c) Connectivity: Janelle Keefer and Steve McIntyre
- d) Building Services
- e) Workforce:

- f) Marketing: Janelle Keefer, Emily Legel, and Rose Noble
- g) Business-impeding ordinances: Mike Dittmar and Steve McIntyre
- h) Grants and Funding Opportunities: Emily Legel and Beth Baranski

Steve McIntyre will contact the committee members not present to discuss what areas they will work on

7. New Business

- a) **Discussion on current ED situation in the county. And the needs in order to recover quickly.**

McIntyre discussed the fading opportunity of the exodus of individuals from cities to rural areas due to COVID and the recent civil unrest. Sites with fiber and housing availability should be targeted for office and other recruitment.

Legel gave an update on activities her organization has taken, including calls regarding the various grants and an expanded reach due to the pandemic. In addition to survival capital, businesses are also looking to expand despite the crisis.

No action was taken.

- b) **Discussion and possible action on Small Business Stabilization Grant for small business relief within the county.**

Eric Tison provided an update on the number of grants given to the area businesses with this grant and the total amounts (~\$60,000), including the various ways of publicizing the grants. Round 3 saw the grant expanded to businesses receiving less than \$5,000 in PPP or EIDL funds, with this application open until July 10, 2020. Dittmar praised the program, from the outreach to the adaptation with each round. Toot discussed a possible round 4 to be examined in the fall.

No action was taken.

- c) **Discussion and possible action on applying for any other grant programs for economic development grants available for Jo Daviess County and businesses within the county.**

Discussion was taken on whether the County's revolving loan fund could be used to provide unsecured, short-term loans to the businesses of the county. Reimer discussed the possibility of revising the loan program and noted that the grant program funds come from the RLF account. Legel noted that she treats the RLF as an expansion fund rather than a survival fund, and that she had 2 businesses in the works potentially interested in expanding. Legel also noted that many businesses are afraid of taking on debt.

Reimer also noted that data from the COVID-19 time period has yet to reflect the full impact when it comes to tax revenue, with McIntyre noting a high number of property transfers. Building permits are also up significantly.

Legel gave updates on the PPP, the Business Interruption grants and other programs. She noted that she is the one point of contact for people to call about any programs and noted that she markets using social media, word of mouth and through the chambers.

No action was taken.

- d) **Discussion and possible action on PPP program.**

Legel noted that the program was extended until the first week of August and that many businesses were unwilling to take the loan due to uncertainty for the future.

No action was taken

8. Staff Reports

- a) **NWILED** – Legel gave an update on activities during COVID-19 including various communications and webinars, all offered free. Other activities included the ongoing port

study for East Dubuque, the Build It Grow It Pitch competition, and a community outreach committee.

b) Planning and Development –

Tison noted 2 permits for solar – one on Highway 20 east of Stockton and one near Apple Canyon Lake with building materials being the major obstacle at this point. He also shared property transfer and permit data, and offered to share the locations per the public notices. The pipeline and sales tax impact were also discussed.

9. Citizens' Comments – None

10. Committee Concerns

Legel thanked the committee for their time and interest in economic development.

McIntyre noted that the next meeting would be at 1 PM due to Zoom and Sheriff's office concerns.

Dittmar noted that he would have to defer to 7 PM after school starts and McIntyre agreed to reach out to the committee members not in attendance.

11. Next regular meeting – The committee decided to schedule meetings on the first Monday of the month. The committee will meet again on Monday, August 3 at 1:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. following a motion by Emily Legel and seconded by Eric Tison.