



WHITESIDE COUNTY
 ENTERPRISE ZONE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Serving EZone Properties in Carroll and Whiteside Counties

**MINUTES
 WHITESIDE CARROLL COUNTY
 ENTERPRISE ZONE
 MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
 January 13, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Duffy called to order the regular quarterly meeting of the Whiteside Carroll County Enterprise Zone Management Organization at 9:04 a.m. on January 13, 2015 in the County Board Room of the Whiteside County Law Enforcement Center Building, 400 N. Cherry Street, Morrison, Illinois.

EZMO members in attendance were: Bill Wescott, Les Mitchell, Glen Kuhlemier, Robbin Blackert, Vicky Trager, Randy Balk, Dale Eizenga, Bud Thompson, Jim Duffy, Ed Cannon and Skip Lee. Also in attendance were Betty Steinert, Zone Administrator; Sandy Prescott, Secretary, Kim Ewoldsen, and Joel Horn.

Absent members were Carl Bates, Tim Crady, Paul Engwall, Tony McCombie, Everett Pannier, Kevin Reibel, Bill Robinson, Larry Russell, Scott Shumard, Heather Sotelo, and Steven Swanson.

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone introduced themselves to guests Kim Ewoldsen, Morrison Area Development Corporation's (MADC) new Director, and Joel Horn, Whiteside County Administrator.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Bud Thompson made a motion to accept the appointments of Kim Ewoldsen to represent Whiteside County for the unexpired term of October 2014- October 2017 (3 years). Dale Eizenga seconded and the motion carried, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Duffy called for public comment. There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Duffy called for a motion to approve the distributed minutes dated October 7, 2014 motion to approve minutes was made by Bud Thompson, second by Dale Eizenga. Motion carried, unanimously.

ADMINISTRATORS QUARTERLY PROJECT AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

| Quarterly Report | # of Projects | Investment | Jobs Created | Fees Collected |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 09/01/14-11/30/14 | 5 | \$5,076,796 | 17 | \$9,579.35 |

ADMINISTRATORS FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROJECT AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

| Fiscal year Reported | # of Projects | Investment | Jobs Created | Fees Collected |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 12/01/13-11/30/14 | 19 | \$25,887,563 | 82 | \$59,689.40 |

Ms. Steinert reported that the Enterprise Zone fund balance as of the end of November 2014 was \$340,163.59; \$160,000.00 remains at Freedom Bank, Sterling deposited in a money market account and the balance of \$ \$180,163.59 in our checking at Triumph Community Bank, (formerly The National Bank of Morrison). Betty reminded the board that \$20,647.50 of the funds belongs to the JoCarroll Enterprise Zone, minus \$20,647.50 leaves us a balance of expendable funds of \$319,516.09.

A motion was made by Glen Kuhlemier to approve the Administrator's reports for projects; fees collected; fund balances and investments, second by Robbin Blackert. Motion carried, unanimously.

EXPENSES REPORT FOR FY2014

Vicky Trager made a motion to approve the Expense Report for Reimbursement to Whiteside County for FY14 of \$73,158.90, Bill Wescott seconded the motion. Motion carried, unanimously. Mayor Trager commented on what a great program the Enterprise Zone Program was and how much Betty and the program helped with the Sandburr Run project located just outside of Thomson!

ESTIMATED FY2015 BUDGET FOR APPROVAL

Ms. Steinert reported that the county vehicles have not always been reliable and are getting older and that she feels safer driving her vehicle long distances. Bill Wescott made the motion to approve the FY2015 Budget has presented, seconded by Les Mitchell. Motion carried, unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW ZONE APPLICATION PROCESS

Ms. Steinert reported that DCEO is unable at this time to report how many applications for new zones they received by the December 31, 2015 deadline. She also reported that Governor Quinn never made the appointments to the Enterprise Zone State Board, and reminded the board that the EZ State board will ultimately make the designation decisions of the zones which by law should be made by September of this year.

Ms. Steinert discussed once again the new zone process. Ms. Steinert reminded everyone that the process for the application of the new zone will require additional EZMO meetings as well as meetings with each community and county.

NEW BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALARY

Mr. Duffy asked County Administrator Mr. Horn to speak on this year's timeline with request to Wage and Salary Committee, first the finance committee will need to hear the request and they will consider if it should go forward as recommended by this organization. Mr. Horn shared that the county was originally going to freeze wages for this year's process, however FY14 ended on a more positive note than anticipated. Raises and adjustments if approved take effect in June. Two years previously an increase/adjustment was given to Ms. Steinert, she did not receive the amount the EZMO had requested to for her salary to be in line with others. Mr. Horn suggested that since this board would not meet again till April that the request be made at the January 26, 2015 Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Horn also suggested that a couple of members from this board be present to discuss their views on a pay adjustment for Ms. Steinert. Bill Wescott asked Ms. Steinert what she was anticipating. Ms. Steinert stated that realistically at least a \$5000 adjustment to bring me closer to what my colleagues are earning.

Robbin Blackert recommended the \$5,000 adjustment; Ms. Steinert is well known throughout the state of Illinois and is highly respected and sought for her knowledge of the Enterprise Zone program. Randy Balk also added that anyone who calls her office is always helped and projects have come through because of her guidance. Bill Wescott added that other Zones are paying consultants to write their applications for amounts of \$80,000 or more and Ms. Steinert has always written and will be writing our upcoming application. Skip Lee was concerned how the increase would look with that amount of increase? Ms. Blackert stated that she felt it was an adjustment not a raise and the EZMO does reimburse the county considerably for salary and benefits. Mr. Horn asked if the Wage and Salary Committee did approve the adjustment, would EZMO be willing to pay their share of the adjustment. Bill Wescott made a motion to support the salary adjustment of \$5,000 and if approved EZMO would increase amount paid. Second was made by Robbin Blackert. Motion carried. Bill Wescott, Robbin Blackert, and Randy Balk volunteered they would attend the Finance Committee about the adjustment.

REQUEST FOR ADDITION(S) OF TERRITORY

Ms. Steinert reported that there were no requests at this time.

OTHER

Ms. Steinert reported that counties within the Blackhawk Regional District are no longer required by EDA to conduct CEDS meetings, however, Ms. Steinert believes these meetings are beneficial for the local unites of government including park districts and non for profit organizations that represent the county. Ms. Steinert would like to continue to conduct the meetings twice a year, April and October. Special meetings for such things as updating the Greenways and Trails plan will require extra meetings.

Glen Kuhlemier made a motion to convey the EZMO sympathies to Ms. Steinert on the recent passing of her sister, seconded by Vicky Trager. All expressed their condolences. Chairman Pannier contacted the office and requested that a plant be ordered for Betty on behalf of the board. Ms. Steinert passed around a Thank You card.

ADJOURMENT

There being no other business Vice Chairman Duffy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Whiteside County Enterprise Zone Management Organization. Bud Thompson made a motion, second by Ed Cannon. The motion carried, unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.