



**MINUTES
WHITESIDE CARROLL COUNTY
ENTERPRISE ZONE
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

October 10, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pannier called to order the regular meeting of the Whiteside Carroll County Enterprise Zone Management Organization at 1:30 p.m. on October 10, 2017 in the County Board Room of the Whiteside County Law Enforcement Center Building, 400 N. Cherry Street, Morrison, Illinois.

EZMO members in attendance were: Bud Thomson, Everett Pannier, George Logan, Jr., Robbin Blackert, Jim Duffy, Vicky Trager, Les Mitchell, Kim Ewoldsen, Skip Lee, Dale Sikkema, Dale Eizenga, Bill Wescott, Glen Kuhlemier, and Paul Engwall. Also in attendance were Gary Camarano, Enterprise Zone Administrator and Sandy Prescott, Administrative Assistant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Pannier called for public comment. There was none.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT

Glen Kuhlemier accepted the request to be temporary chair of the EZMO board during the nomination and election of a Chairperson. Jim Duffy nominated Everett Pannier. Bud Thomson seconded the nomination. Mr. Kuhlemier called three times for other nominations. There were no other nominations. A roll call vote was called for. Voting yes was: George Logan, Jr., Robbin Blackert, Dale Sikkema, Jim Duffy, Dale Eizenga, Paul Engwall, Kimberly Ewoldsen, Glen Kuhlemier, Les Mitchell, Vicky Trager, Bud Thompson and Bill Wescott. Yes vote was unanimous with the exception of Everett Pannier abstaining. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Pannier.

Chairman Pannier then called for nominations for a Vice Chair. Bud Thomson nominated Jim Duffy. The nomination was seconded by Robbin Blackert. Vicky Trager called to close nominations. An informal vote was called by Chairman Pannier with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Pannier then asked for a motion to appoint/reappoint Dale Eizenga and Kimberly Ewoldsen for the City of Morrison and Dale Sikkema for the City of Fulton. Terms will expire at the October 2020 meeting. Motion to appoint/reappoint was made by Bud Thompson with a second by Jim Duffy. Motion carried unanimously.

There was some discussion on the vacant Savanna appointment. Emails and calls to the Savanna Mayor, Chris Lain have not been returned. Vicky Trager will approach Chris Lain on our behalf.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Pannier called for a motion to approve the distributed minutes dated July 11, 2017. Motion to approve minutes was made by Bill Wescott, second by George Logan, Jr. Motion carried, unanimously.

ADMINISTRATORS FY17 PROJECT AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Balance of Funds FY17; 3rd Quarter

Administrator Camarano reported that the Enterprise Zone fund balance as of September 30, 2017 was \$182,315.33; at The Farmer's National Bank. Jo Carroll Enterprise Zone maintains funds in the amount of \$15,647.03 leaving a balance of expendable funds in the amount of \$166,668.30 in the Whiteside Carroll Account that is balanced with the Whiteside County treasurer's office.

Projects Recorded FY17; 3rd Quarter

FY17; 3rd Quarter Projects Report	# of Projects	Investment	Jobs Created	Fees Collected
07/01/2017-09/30/2017	5	\$1,845,984.00	7	\$4,892.32

Administrator Camarano reported that in the 3rd quarter of FY17 there were 5 new projects with \$1,845,984.00 in investment with 7 Jobs Created and Fees collected in the amount of \$4,892.32.

Administrator Camarano shared the FY17 totals remain higher in 2017 over the whole FY16 and FY15. The Zone is showing an increase in all areas over last year. FY17 has produced 18 projects with \$25,603,466.00 in investment with 235 Jobs created and fees collected in the amount of \$56,603,466.00

Chairman Pannier called for a motion to approve the FY17; 3rd quarter Balance of Funds and Project's Recorded. A motion was made by Bill Wescott; second by Dale Eizenga. Motion carried, unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON NEW ZONE APPLICATION

Administrator Camarano has made several attempts to verify that the Enterprise Zone application was awarded by contacting Ben Denney through phone calls and emails. The information on awarded zones notification deadline was supposed to be September 30, 2017. As of this meeting no notification has been received from DCEO.

OTHER- NONE

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Administrator Camarano announced that the Stanley Black and Decker building in Rock Falls, has sold to Robinson Investments, headquartered in Bellefontaine, Ohio. 100,000sf has been rented to Cimco Recycling. Mr. Camarano will be hosting a small group from China, tomorrow, and will be showing this building along with a few other area sites. The group from China is looking to be close to area business partner, Wahl Clipper Corporation in Sterling.

BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION

Mr. Camarano observed a lack of local contractors being used in Enterprise Zone and area projects. He is in process of developing a link that will showcase area contractors. Contractors that have worked on past Enterprise Zone projects, more than once, will be approached first. They will be emailed a copy of the letter attached in the EZMO packet, along with a return questionnaire from a business/vendor that has used the contractor's services. The questionnaire will ask the vendor to rate the contractor on several areas and with 3

positive returns to us, the contractor and their contact information will be displayed in the link under the appropriate business profession.

The FABTECH Trade Show will be next week. Expansion Solutions will be hosting a hospitality booth and will be promoting our area.

GATS (Great American Trucking Show) and 2017 Process Expo leads, obtained by Mr. Camarano, are ready in an e-copy for anyone who would want to make follow-up calls to the leads that are looking in the area for a site or vacant building to expand their business. Let the office know and we will send them.

Mr. Camarano is proposing that pre-certified, shovel ready sites be a top priority. We are running out of available buildings that meet criteria we are being sent. Soil tests and an Environmental Phase I test must be done. A virtual spec building is being designed by Winter Construction and could be promoted as buildable in 120 days. 300 Acres at the LRA are already pre-certified. However, the biggest issue has been and remains, getting Natural Gas to the sites.

The University of Illinois is seeking a \$500,000 grant for the "Digital" Edge, a program in partnership with the DDMII (Digital Manufacturing Design and Innovation Institute), Northern Illinois University, Sauk Valley Community College, Morrison Institute of Technology, Whiteside Area Career Center, MEIP and Whiteside County Economic Development department. The purpose is to bring cutting edge technology to local manufacturing and improve the workforce. They should know soon. If the grant is not awarded they will continue to move forward without it.

The MIT Innovation Center will have it all. Cutting-edge additive manufacturing equipment, robotics and electronics labs, a construction technology lab, traditional manufacturing equipment, wood working and metal working equipment, welding equipment, and casting space (both cold and hot) will come together to provide almost limitless options.

Build to serve four primary clients. The center will foster collaboration and creativity. Students, businesses, artisans, and entrepreneurs alike will benefit from a place where ideas are explored, dreams are pursued, and discoveries are made.

This unique space will provide the capabilities to create one-of-a-kind parts, large precast concrete projects, or even small production runs of components or products.

Morrison Tech recognizes the need for the Innovation Center in our region, and understands the profound impact this center could have on schools and businesses in both Morrison and the surrounding communities.

ECONOMIC GARDENING

Dave's Coffee Cakes is going through the Economic Gardening program and Fennix is in the beginning stages of the program.

Smaller companies are closing, carpentry is very conservative. This is a nation-wide issue. The SBDC is looking in to a transition between retiring and beginning entities to transition their trades and keep a business that would have otherwise closed, open.

The TIF Program is coming under fire, particularly from education. TIF is being looked at in the next legislative session.

OTHER

Each community who was represented at today's meeting was able to share some of the upcoming events and positive changes happening in their communities.

ADJOURMENT

There being no other business Chairman Pannier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Whiteside County Enterprise Zone Management Organization. Bud Thompson made the motion, second by Dale Eizenga. The motion carried, unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.