



**MINUTES
WHITESIDE CARROLL
ENTERPRISE ZONE
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

EZMO Chair, Everett Pannier, called to order the regular meeting of the Whiteside Carroll County Enterprise Zone Management Organization at 1:30 p.m. on February 12, 2020 in the County EOC Room #117, located in the Whiteside County Courthouse, 200 E. Knox Street, Morrison, Illinois.

EZMO members in attendance were Ben Adolph, Robbin Blackert, Jim Duffy, Kim Ewoldsen, Skip Lee, Everett Pannier, Doug Sherf, Scott Shumard, Bud Thomson, Frank Tipton, Vicky Trager, Mick Welding, and William Wescott. Also in attendance were Gary Camarano, Enterprise Zone Administrator and Sandy Prescott, Enterprise Zone Assistant.

PUBLIC COMMENT

EZMO Chair, Everett Pannier, called for public comment. There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

EZMO Chair, Everett Pannier, called for a motion to approve minutes dated October 8, 2019. A motion to approve minutes was made Bud Thomson, second by Bill Wescott. All approved, motion carried.

ADMINISTRATORS FY19 PROJECT AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Projects Recorded FY19 (7/1/19 to 9/30/19)

FY19 Projects Report	# of Projects	Investment	Jobs Created	Fees Collected
11/1/2018-11/30/2019	19	\$38,691,862.00	430	\$84,210.99

There were 19 projects recorded in FY19 with a total investment of \$38,691,862.00. The 19 projects estimated 430 new jobs will be created with no jobs retained due to the projects, who had 1,749 current employees.

FY19 fees were collected in the amount of \$84,210.99 You will see a difference in the check book ledger’s “fees collected” due to one projects large expansion that happened at the end of December. Due to the recording software, DevNet, not allowing for additional receipts, reflects the additional amount collected on the McCormick project on 2/19/19. The initial amount due was for \$3,577.16. Once this project grew, and an additional fee was collected in the amount of \$2,803.02 for a total collected fee of \$6,380.18. The additional fee collected is shown on the FY20 check book ledger on December 31, 2019.

The Professional Property Solutions project that came in on November 27th and was input to the IDOR on that date, it will not show its deposit on the FY19 checkbook ledger but does show on your projects and fees reports. Due to closing of the end of the county fiscal year, and the Thanksgiving holiday, this project did not meet the time deadline to be officially record in FY19. In order to balance with the Treasurer's Office, the project's deposit has been recorded on December 2, 2019 which is the beginning FY20.

Both of these project deposits were handed out to the board, on the FY20 checkbook ledger, that balanced with the Whiteside County Treasurer.

FY19 the EZone had total receipts for project fees of \$80,271.62 There were disbursements in the amount of \$96,671.51 and interest in the amount of \$537.80 of which \$35.84 was disbursed to the Jo Carroll EZone. This gave the Whiteside Carroll EZone interest in the amount of \$501.96 leaving a total balance in the account at \$120,035.26

The Jo Carroll EZMO received interest for their portion of funds held by the Whiteside Carroll EZMO. Interest was applied by each month's actual interest rate and disbursed monthly for a total FY19 interest amount of \$35.84. Each month, beginning July 2019, was calculated with the actual interest rate received. The balance for the Jo Carroll EZMO is \$113,698.36, this leaves a total FY19 Whiteside Carroll Enterprise Zone expendable funds of \$106,336.90

Chairman Pannier called for a motion to approve the Administrators' FY 19 project and financial reports. Skip Lee made the motion to approve the reports as presented with a second by Robbin Blackert. All approved, motion carried.

FY19 EXPENDITURE REPORTS, APPROVAL OF EXPENSES & FY20 BUDGET

For review and comparison, everyone received a copy of the FY19 Budget that was approved with corrections on 1/15/19. Last year the wrong copy was printed in the board packets. A corrected one was emailed to the board.

A FY19 Expense Report to calculate reimbursement to the county, was examined. We were able to come in a bit under budget. The reasons are: Total wages and benefits came in slightly lower and expenditures were lower than the budgeted amounts. The FY19 Expenses and reimbursement to the county comes to \$89,270.05

Chairman Pannier called for a motion to approve the Administrators' FY19 expenses and reimbursement to the county. Skip Lee made the motion to approve the FY19 expense and reimbursement reports as presented with a second by Bud Thomson. All approved, motion carried.

Discussion on the FY20 Budget for Approval shows that expenditures remain the same. Some estimates are not available on thing like insurance but we have estimated at this time for increases close to last year. No raises have been factored in however, there was a 2% Administrator and a .75 cent support staff, wage increase given by the county that took effect on December 1, 2019. We have based FY20 wages on that amount.

Mayor Lee expressed a concern for the sustainability of the zone, financially. While projects have sustained the zone in years past the, there is concern for the zone being able to bring in enough each year to maintain the level that the zone currently calls for to operate both Economic Development and the Enterprise Zone. Administrator Camarano shared that he has been in discussions with both Mr. Duffy, County Board Chair, and Mr. Joel Horn, the County Administrator. He was told that in the past, when the zone was unable to meet their financial commitment, the county has covered the shortfall.

Chairman Pannier called for a motion to approve the FY20 Budget. Bill Wescott made the motion to approve the FY20 Budget as presented with a second by Ben Adolph. All approved, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ENTERPRISE ZONE INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

The Enterprise Zone Promotional meetings that were scheduled in December required being rescheduled. Since then, they have been rearranged several times to accommodate meeting places and times. They have been rescheduled for Thursday, February 20th. In Whiteside County we will meet in the courthouse EOC Room, #117 from 9-10:30 a.m. Then we will travel to the Carroll County courthouse and present from 1:30-3:00pm. A press release announcing the information is expected to come out in this week's area newspapers and radio.

FRED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Everyone was given a FRED unemployment rate sheet in their packet for Whiteside and Carroll County for November 2019. Whiteside County's unemployment rate was at 3.9% (Last year was at 4.4%) and Carroll County's unemployment rate was at 3.5% (Last year was at 2.8%)

OTHER

There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

5G INITIATIVE ATTRACTION

Administrator Camarano had met, last year with county boards who had formed a focus group to work on worker attraction. There is no cost, up front. There is the talk of bringing 5G to our Northwest region rather than a smaller population base. In order to attract workers to our region, we must have connectivity that supports the remote worker.

WORKER/RESIDENT ATTRACTION

The approach being used is that we are a great place to live. There is a multimedia effort with websites connected to a "Jobs Board." Right now we have more jobs than workers, which is a regional problem. GeoFencing can be placed around areas that may be seeing business closures and create a pop up to the website and the jobs available in our area as well as housing available, showing what great communities we have.

REGIONAL RESPONSE/FEDERAL RESERVE STUDY

Included in everyone's packet was a copy of the 2019 Federal Reserve Systems, "Strengthening Workforce Development in Rural Areas. The group has developed a "Sounding Board" on workforce – the basis for regional effort with a committee, at this time, who is exploring "What we are doing", "What is working and What is not". "What resources are available". It is a work in progress looking for participating counties around us and private businesses input.

OTHER There was no "other" business.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Community updates were shared by the communities in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business Chairman Pannier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Whiteside Carroll Enterprise Zone Management Organization. Bud Thomson made the motion to adjourn, second by Jim Duffy. The motion carried, unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.