



Minutes approved 03-19-14

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Jury Commission Room – McKenzie Building  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 – 4:20 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Vice Chairman Tim Neuhauser, Russ Crawford, Brett Grimm, Dean Grimm, Mike Harris, Terry Hillegonds, Carroll Imig, Darrell Meisinger, Greg Sinn

Committee Members Absent: Chairman Zimmerman, Jim Donahue

Others attending: Michael J. Freiling, County Administrator

Vice Chairman Neuhauser began the meeting with Unfinished Business.

## **MOTION**

E-14-18

**MOTION BY SINN, SECOND CRAWFORD** to recommend to County Board to approve the Tazewell County Economic Development Incentive Policy.

Freilinger stated this policy was discussed at the last meeting. It is an incentive policy that was put together and approved by the Economic Development Committee. It lays out incentives and criteria. It was tabled last month to allow time for consideration.

Crawford stated that when the Monsanto deal came to the Board for a vote the representatives from Building Trades came in and requested language to be added to include the use of local labor. At that time the deal was too far down the road. He asked if this policy addresses their concerns. Freilinger stated their comments were included and he did reach out for their input in preparing this policy.

Harris stated it is all good but he will oppose demanding requirements from new employers. He does believe the jobs should be kept regionally. Dean Grimm stated that there are many businesses that leave Illinois due to the cost and legalities and we don't want to make it hard for them to come in by forcing criteria. Sinn pointed out it is tiered.

Brett Grimm inquired if this policy was stricter than municipalities have in place. Freilinger stated each community can set their own criteria. He stated that to receive incentives from the county a business must meet our requirements unless they are an Enterprise Zone or TIF. To receive our tax abatement they must meet our criteria.

Harris also asked about a section that included the size of a facility. Freilinger explained that is only for spec buildings as the only jobs created there are the construction jobs. Freilinger stated the benefit would be in property taxes when the abatement runs out.

There was discussion regarding the average wage. Tazewell County has an average wage that is higher than the MSA. The policy includes a wage high enough to grow the wages in Tazewell and attain the regional goal.

Neuhauser stated that this is an agreement that we can put in place to help avoid a lack of continuity of incentives. It is a starting point and can be easily amended in the future.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED**.  
Opposed were Dean Grimm and Mike Harris.

**MOTION**  
E-14-25

**MOTION BY IMIG, SECOND BY BRETT GRIMM** to recommend to County Board to approve providing financial assistance to TCRPC.

Freilinger stated that TCRPC is having financial difficulties and require an infusion of \$250,000 for cash flow to support their operations as passed by their Board. Woodford County approved support for TCRPC in the amount of \$30,000 last night.

Meisinger stated that the Ways and Means Committee provided information that the recommendation was increased to \$313,000 and then \$400,000.

Freilinger stated the goal for them is to have six months of cash flow. The recommendation from Ways and Means has not passed their Board yet. Brett Grimm inquired if this infusion would fix their problem. Freilinger stated it will resolve the problems provided they follow the recommended criteria.

Brett Grimm stated that he will support if this resolves their internal problems. He stated this is why he only wants Board members appointed to their committees.

Neuhauser stated our contribution is subject to clear terms. This is a loan. The transitional oversight executors are the County Administrators from Peoria and Tazewell. Freilinger clarified it is a forgivable loan if they fully comply. If it was a loan only it would not help their financial position as they would simply be deeper in debt.

Freilinger stated the agreement was written to cover Peoria and Tazewell. One of the requirements is to re-do their by-laws and have those approved

by both County Administrators. He stated this is our MPO and the way we receive federal funds. This \$100,000 will be the last asked for.

Crawford stated that he has been on this committee since 1978 and they were founded in 1958. They have never been in a fiscal crisis until now. He stated there were 6 reasons and 5 of the 6 were not routine or systematic. He also provided information on the amounts requested from each of the three counties as based on populations.

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Freilinger stated that if adopting as presented it is still subject to review and approval by the County Attorney. ASA Holly asked him to ensure the committee understood there is no collateral or security.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION**  
E-14-22

**MOTION BY BRETT GRIMM, SECOND BY HILLEGONDS** to recommend to County Board to approve a partial payment to the EDC.

Freilinger stated that Chairman Zimmerman had asked this to be put on the agenda. There has not been a payment made to the EDC since mid 2012. Services are still provided to the County by Sally Hanley. Our Chairman sits on the EDC Board. Funds were appropriated in the 2014 budget. There was \$70,780.00 appropriated for EDC, \$21,289.00 for CEDS and \$43,325.00 for FFCI.

Crawford pointed out there were not contracts at this time.

**MOTION to**  
**Amend**

**MOTION BY CRAWFORD, SECOND BY DEAN GRIMM** to strike “and our Vice-Chairman is seated on the FFCI Board” from the resolution.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION**

**MOTION BY BRETT GRIMM, SECOND BY HARRIS** to approve as amended.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION**

**MOTION BY CRAWFORD, SECOND BY HILLEGONDS** to move the Committee into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Personnel at 5:20 p.m.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Vice Chairman Neuhauser moved the Committee out of Executive Session

at 5:33 p.m.

**MOTION**

E-14-24

**MOTION BY SINN, SECOND BY IMIG** to recommend to County Board to approve the appointment of County Engineer.

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Vice Chairman Neuhauser recessed the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Beeney)