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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Economic Development Committee Minutes
April 9, 2014**

The DeKalb County Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Administrative Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Whelan called the meeting to order. Members present were Mr. Oncken, Mr. Pietrowski, Mr. Metzger, and Mr. Reid. Mr. Brown and Mr. Deverell were absent.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Mark Vicary, Rick Olson and Jim Teckenbrock.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Metzger, seconded by Mr. Reid, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from March 12, 2014.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Whelan announced that Kathy Curtis, President of the Village of Maple Park, was unable to attend to make it to the meeting so they will be having Mark Vicary, Mayor of Genoa in her place.

Moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Reid and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

City of Genoa – Mayor Mark Vicary

Ms. Christine Johnson introduced Mayor Vicary to the Committee and shared that he was elected as Mayor in April of 2013 and is a Manager of Human Resources for United Airlines and graduated from Penn State National Louis University.

Mayor Vicary addressed the Committee on what has been going on for the past twelve months in the City of Genoa. He shared that they are about the break ground on the new Genoa Public Library. Mayor Vicary also shared information regarding new businesses that are in the Genoa area such as Lloyd Landscaping and Garden Center, Piggly Wiggly, a new pharmacy, a bakery and the moving of Prairie State Winery. Some of these businesses have taken advantage of a Low Interest Loan Program that the City of Genoa is providing; business like Lloyds Landscaping and the pharmacy have been started using this program. The City of Genoa also has a business incubator site that is housing about three to four small businesses right now.

The Mayor also brought a couple items up that he would like to talk to the Committee about and possibly get some help with or simply make the County aware of. He first brought up Amtrak and said they have been awarded the station but they have their finger crossed in Genoa that it is actually going to happen, he shared that he would appreciate any help or anything that the County can do to help expedite in getting the Amtrak out this way through DeKalb County.

He also indicated that he has reached out to Northern Illinois University with a job opportunity for a Marketing Internship to help with social media and a newsletter for the City of Genoa but has been unsuccessful in getting any responses from them. The position would be \$12 an hour and about 15 hours per week year round. Mr. Pietrowski indicated that he will get the word out to N.I.U. and help find someone who would be interested in the position.

Mayor Vicary also indicated he has ideas for other internships that could be directed to N.I.U.'s Engineering Department if they do get the Amtrak rail out his way. The Committee said that they would help the Mayor get a good contact for N.I.U.

He also shared that the City of Genoa is interested in being a part of the Enterprise Zone Map for the County's efforts in attaining an Enterprise Zone from the State of Illinois. Mayor Vicary continued that a perfect place to include would be the "Crossroads of Genoa" which is located by the intersection of IL Route 23 where the old Lumber 84 used to be in that industrial park area.

Mrs. Johnson asked Mayor Vicary to speak a little more about the City's Business Incubator Program and Mr. Pietrowski indicated he too would like to know a little more about that and also a little more about the Low Interest Loan Program that the City offers as business incentives. The Mayor explained more about both programs.

The Committee thanked Mayor Mark Vicary for coming and updating them about what is happening in the City of Genoa.

City of Sandwich – Mayor Rick Olson

Mrs. Johnson introduced City of Sandwich's Mayor, Rich Olson who was elected in 2013 and he was Sandwich Police Chief for 16 years as well as 20 years on the Rochelle Police Force. Accompanying Mayor Olson was City of Sandwich's Economic Development Corporation's Executive Director, Jim Teckenbrock. Mr. Teckenbrock is a graduate of Wabunsee College and N.I.U., he was in the US Navy, and a radio announcer for WSPY.

Mayor Olson explained that one thing their City is currently embracing is keeping buildings compliant. He explained how the issue has come to their attention and shared how the City will be starting to promote a pilot program to address concerns with fire separation, ADA compliance, lead paint and asbestos in current City buildings. The first initiative for the program would be to invite all business and building owners, property managers, real estate agents, and citizen to come and hear what the actual building requirements are even though they have been in effect for decades.

Mayor Olson also touched on the City also having low interest loans for businesses through local banks. He also indicated he is looking for someone with an architectural background that may be interested in an intern-type position to help them work with property owners in ratifying any

problems that they may have with their current buildings. The primary focus on keeping these buildings compliant is the life safety issues for the business and building owners as well as residents that are living on second floors of these buildings.

The Mayor reiterated that the first initiative for the Building Compliant Program would be to invite representatives from the State to come and speak specifically what their expertise is and explaining all the different programs that are out there and how long they have been in effect. The second phase would be to have building inspectors to go through and audit with a check list improvements that are needed to be made to make the buildings compliant. The third part of the program would be to address letters to individual building/property owners and list the identified issues and welcome them to meet with City Officials to talk about specific programs and plans that they may have to address the issues found during the building audit. The State of Illinois has identified tax incentive programs that available for upgrades to buildings.

Mayor Olson continued to share with the Committee that Sandwich is becoming a City of destination. The town is becoming literally flooded with citizens coming to visit antique and nick- knock shops on the weekends. He also shared that the City is looking for ways embrace activities and entertainment downtown for the tourists.

Mr. Teckenbrock shared recent building and development that has come to the City of Sandwich including, the selling of the Hotel, a new location for the future new Sandwich Police Station, a donut shop, and shared how their industrial park area is slowly starting to pick back up again. There has been some recent restaurant changes in the area and shared there is anticipation for more chain restaurants in the area, and reiterated that there are many antique and thrift antique shops.

The City of Sandwich is also lucky to have a large, expanding Hospital, a great school system and many other well-known facilities like the Oprah House, Open Door, and Fox Valley Senior Center. The City is always welcoming more businesses and banks, and antique stores.

Mr. Metzger commented that Mayor Olson has done a great job so far and has made the transition into Mayor very smooth even with a large project like Highway 34 dumped on his lap right away he has done a great job. The City of Sandwich and the residents with the help of Tim Bivins and Tom Demmer were able to stop the change of Route 34 in Sandwich that would have removed over 23 buildings in their area and destroyed their economic development program.

Mr. Pietrowski commented that it is refreshing that the City is identifying ADA upgrades and likes that fact that the City of Sandwich has a identity with their antiques and that they are embracing it.

Mr. Hanson asked if the City had a Tax Abatement Programs. Mr. Teckenbrock expressed that they did not at this time but that it is something they have been actively talking about and have also been looking into possible Tiff Districts, Enterprise Zones.

Mrs. Johnson also shared that the City of Sandwich has a new library that is being built. Bike paths were also discussed to connect Sandwich and Somonauk.

INTRODUCTION OF 2015 BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Hanson explained that this item is an invitation for the Committee to look deeper into individual budgets for the departments that report to them. All County Board Committees are given the opportunity to start looking at the budgets now or to wait until September. Some Committees have said yes already while other have not been interested in doing so.

Mr. Metzger asked if anyone would like to start looking at anything in particular. The Committee expressed that they did not have a desire to take an early “deep dive” into any budgets.

Mr. Hanson expressed that the one issue the Committee may have this Fall is whether or not they want to fund the IHSA Championship Games for 2015 again. It may be a hot issue when the time comes to determine whether the \$25,000 was a one-time contribution or a reoccurring donation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Oncken, seconded by Mr. Pietrowski, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Jeff Whelan

Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary

DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
April 9, 2014

Potential FY 2015 Pre-Budget Discussion Items (May through July)

1. Do you wish to do a “deep dive” into one or more of the budgets listed below?
 - a. Discuss individual line-items
 - b. Discuss staffing levels
 - c. Discuss service levels
 - d. Discuss fee levels charged
 - e. Contracts up for renewal

2. Do you want any specific information regarding contributions provided to any of the outside entities previously funded?
 - a. DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation (\$ 45,000)
 - b. DeKalb Convention & Visitor’s Bureau (\$ 15,000)
 - c. IHSA Football Championships Host Committee (\$ 25,000)

3. Any special projects you would like explored in any of the Committee’s budget areas?

Department Budgets: County Clerk & Recorder / Micrographics Fund
Supervisor of Assessments
Treasurer / Tax Sale Automation

Entity Funding: DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation
DeKalb County Convention & Visitor’s Bureau
IHSA Football Championships Host Committee