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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Economic Development Committee Minutes
October 4, 2016**

The DeKalb County Economic Development Committee met on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 @ 7:00p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order. Members present were Mr. Faivre, Ms. Leifheit, Mr. Pietrowski, Jr., Mr. Whelan and Mr. Porterfield. Ms. Polanco was absent. A quorum was present. Others present were Gary Hanson, Christine Johnson, Peter Stefan, Greg Millburg, Dr. Joanne Kantner, Ms. Mary Anne Kolls, and Paul Borek.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Pietrowski, Jr., seconded by Ms. Leifheit, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from September 6, 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Faivre, seconded by Ms. Leifheit, and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC OR MEMBER COMMENTS

There was no public comment. Chairman Brown stated that he spoke with City of DeKalb Mayor John Rey about his activating the City's Economic Development Commission. They spoke about conducting a joint meeting together in the near future.

DEKALB COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND ENTERPRISE ZONE UPDATE– MR. PAUL BOREK

Mr. Paul Borek, Executive Director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation approached the committee with his updated report.

DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation's goals for 2017 include Business Attraction and Development, Business Climate Enhancement, Business Retention and Expansion, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Industrial Growth and Workforce Development, and Strengthening the Public/Private Economic Development Partnership, he continued.

Some of the companies that Mr. Borek highlighted in his report were the completion of Ideal's new \$18 million, 220,000 square foot building in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park, manufacturing equipment has been installed, employees have relocated and operations have begun. Existing production operations have been consolidated from older buildings and the new operation will produce innovative new products/technologies being developed by the company.

For example, Ideal's *Audacy* wireless energy management and electrical control technology was selected by the Chicago Cubs as the lighting control backbone for the Wrigley Field renovation. Ideal has also launched a First-in-the-Nation Partnership with Northern Illinois University to provide creative NIU students the opportunity to help bring Ideal's new products and technologies to market. This program is housed at Ideal's DeKalb facilities.

DeKalb Forge has completed a \$1 million expansion of its die building on the north side of Pleasant Street, just east of their headquarters. DeKalb Forge has expanded during four of the last six years relocating all research and development operations to DeKalb and increasing production capacity for its closed die drop forge products.

J6 Polymers has acquired the former 84 Lumber complex on Derby Line Road in Genoa. The company plans to expand their operations producing engineered specialty foams serving aerospace and other high tech industries.

He said that they will market and administer the new DeKalb County Enterprise Zone to attract investment, jobs and tax revenue to targeted industrial and commercial properties throughout the County. They will partner in implementation of the DeKalb County Thriving! Economic Development Vision.

Mr. Borek said that with regards to the Enterprise Zone they contracted with The Development Consortium to train staff in Enterprise Zone administration and prepare a DeKalb County Enterprise Zone Process Guide. They held a Municipal Officials Training Workshop to brief municipal and county staff engaged in planning, zoning and permitting. They also held a Prospect Forum to promote the Enterprise Zone benefits to realtors, developers, builders and referral sources, i.e., accountants, bankers, insurers, attorneys, architects and engineers.

Those companies that have completed applications for the Enterprise Zone are: Brian Bemis Toyota, Service Concepts HVAC out of Genoa, and Angie's SugarBuzz Bakery in Sandwich.

They have quite a few prospects for the Enterprise Zone including, 3 manufacturers, and entertainment services/distribution company from Canada, 4 retailers in Genoa, Sycamore and DeKalb, contractors, industrial prospects and building prospects

The total investment of approved Enterprise Zone Projects was \$3,630,000.00, said Mr. Borek.

Mr. Borek then introduced Dr. Joanne Kantner and Ms. Mary Anne Kolls with Kishwaukee College to speak about the Illinois WorkNet Center. They mentioned that 9 job seekers (7 from DeKalb County and 2 from Kane County) secured full-time employment through the On-the-Job Training Program, which provides funding to partially reimburse businesses for the cost of training newly hired employees in critical job skills. DeKalb County Adult and Dislocated Workers accessed 20% of the total training resources expended across the three-county area, with Kane County totaling 62% and Kendall at 18%.

Dr. Kantner said that this year's provision of services in DeKalb County was delivered through contractual agreement with Kishwaukee College which included funding to support five (5) full-time career center staff, as well as a part-time Administrative Assistant. Delivered through the DeKalb WorkNet Center, approximately 4,150 job seekers were provided basic assistance with 352 individual adults receiving individualized job search and career counseling.

Ms. Kolls said that with regards to the DeKalb County Youth Workforce Programming, Kishwaukee College provides out-of-school youth participants, ages 16-24, with the opportunity to explore meaningful careers, receive financial scholarships for occupational training, and participate in employment readiness activities and work experiences. Through a WIOA contract, Kishwaukee assisted 61 DeKalb area youth, with a 90% participation rate in pre-vocational and occupation based classroom training and 6 youth receiving a paid work experience that provided an opportunity to learn skills on the job. Of the training resources expended in the three-county area; 22% was for DeKalb County youth.

The committee thanked Mr. Borek for his very informative report. The committee also thanked Dr. Kantner and Ms. Kolls for their reports.

FY17 2017 BUDGET

Mr. Peter Stefan, DeKalb County Finance Director, stated that Ms. Brunshon, Supervisory of Assessments, asked to have her budget appeal deferred until November 2016, the Committee's next meeting. There were no questions from the committee on the 2017 budget.

COORDINATOR'S REPORTS – MARY SUPPLE

Mary Supple, DeKalb County Economic Development Coordinator and Business Incubator Manager, gave an update to the committee about the Incubator. Since the ribbon cutting ceremony there have been two new companies that have signed on as tenants at the Incubator. That makes a total of 6 companies in

the Incubator since July 1st of this year. Executive Authors, Inc. has moved in already and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services, Inc. will move in around the 2nd or 3rd week of October. Three other companies have inquired about the Incubator and she has taken them on tours of the facility.

Ms. Supple has met with the new Dean of the College of Business and she mentioned that they talked about co-hosting a "Shark Tank" type competition at the Business Incubator in early 2017. She will meet with Dr. Gur from the College of Business to discuss getting students from the Entrepreneur and Innovation classes to come to the Incubator for a tour.

Ms. Supple mentioned that she has one intern who is working on attracting certain speakers for our Workshop Series that we hope to begin in November. She will be meeting with Kishwaukee College this week about securing a speaker for the first workshop.

Ms. Supple finally informed the committee that she will be retiring from the County. Her last day with the County will be November 28, 2016. The Committee congratulated her and wished her well.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman Robert Brown


Mary Supple, Recording Secretary