Kendall County Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 26, 2013
Kendall County Board Room

Call to Order
The Economic Development Committee met at 8:35 a.m. and was called to order by Dan Koukol, Chairman of the Kendall County Economic Development Committee.

Roll Call
Members Present: Dan Koukol, Judy Gilmour, Lynn Cullick, Amy Cesich, and Matt Prochaska (arrived at 9:20 a.m. from the Housing Authority meeting)
Members Absent: None
Other Board Members Present: None
Staff Present: Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator, and John Sterrett, Economic Development Coordinator

Approval of Agenda
Ms. Cullick made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cesich, to approve the agenda. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes
Ms. Cesich made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilmour, to approve the May 24, 2013 meeting minutes. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

Ms. Gilmour made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cullick, to approve the June 7, 2013 special meeting minutes. With a voice vote of all ayes, the motion carried.

New Business
Kendall County Job and Resource Fair Recap
Mr. Koukol summarized the 2013 Kendall County Job and Resource Fair stating that the event was an overall success. The number of job seekers was similar to that of last year’s event and totaled about 200. There was an increase in the number of employers at the event. Mr. Sterrett highlighted some of the discussion that took place at the debrief meeting with Waubonsee Community College on the Job Fair. A suggestion by the organizers of the event at the debrief meeting was to possibly eliminate the educational seminars because the low turnout for these seminars. The Committee felt that these seminars are still important and should be kept. The schedule of the seminars, however, should be reviewed so the seminars accommodate the job seekers better. The committee suggested having seminars and resume building workshops prior to the event. The Committee stressed the importance of a good quality resume and knowing how to stand out to employers at the event. Depending on what type of job someone is seeking, an individual’s background could have an impact on if they are able to obtain that job or not. Following up with job seekers to find out if they received a job from the event would be beneficial to know how many people were successful.

Resolution Recognizing Waubonsee Community College for Their Commitment To The Kendall County Job and Resource Fair
Mr. Koukol stressed the importance of Waubonsee Community College in putting together the Job and Resource Fair. As a way to express this, a resolution was put together to recognize Waubonsee Community College for their commitment to the Kendall County Job and Resource Fair. Ms. Cesich made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cullick, to forward the resolution onto the County Board for action on August 6, 2013.

2013 Association of Industrial Realtors Tradeshow (AIRE)
Mr. Koukol gave a background on the Association of Industrial Realtors (AIRE) Tradeshow and explained that the County has participated in it the last two years. It is a great opportunity to meet with
developers in the Chicago Region and provide them with information on Kendall County. The County secures a booth at the event and the local Economic Development Corporation directors purchase a ticket for themselves to attend. The tradeshow will take place on Tuesday, September 10th at a location TBD.

2014 Kendall Economic Forecast Breakfast
Mr. Koukol discussed the 2014 Economic Forecast breakfast. A breakfast will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at Whitetail Ridge Golf Course to discuss the economic forecast and trends of the region. The guest speaker will be Rick Mattoon, Senior Economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. This event is being put on by the Kendall Economic Development Alliance which consists of the local EDCs of Yorkville, Montgomery, Plano, Sandwich and the Economic Development Department of Oswego. Mr. Sterrett will continue to work on organizing the event and will provide updates. Mr. Wilkins stated that questions can be submitted prior to the event to give to Mr. Mattoon to address at the event.

FY2014 Economic Development Budget
Mr. Koukol went over the draft budget for Economic Development. The budget is similar to last year’s budget and includes two new line items to cover the Economic Forecast Breakfast. The budget will be presented before the Budget and Finance Committee. The Committee did not want the budget to be stripped too much because they felt it is important to have funding for resources for businesses, especially existing ones in the community. A possible way to offer support is by highlighting an existing business on the County’s Economic Development web page each month. A business roundtable in the Fall that focuses on marketing for small businesses is another possible technique to help out small local businesses have the opportunity to learn about internet marketing, advertising, website design, etc. This will be discussed further.

FY2014 Revolving Loan Fund Budget
Mr. Sterrett went over the budget for the Revolving Loan Fund. This budget includes the current existing loans with the County. Mr. Wilkins explained that $250,000 will be appropriated for any possible loans in fiscal year 2014. Mr. Wilkins also explained some of the other financial options for businesses are including private activity bonds. All existing loans have made monthly payments last month.

Business Retention & Expansion Program
Mr. Sterrett stated that Business Retention & Expansion visits continue to go well and businesses are finding the value in the community resource information that is given to them. The Revolving Loan Fund is one of the key highlights of the resources that are available for businesses. Mr. Wilkins commented that there is activity picking up in municipalities with prospective businesses.

Other Business - None

Chairman’s Report - None

Public Comment - None

Executive Committee - None

Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Mr. Prochaska moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cullick. There being no objection, the Economic Development Committee, at 9:35 a.m., adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
John H. Sterrett,
Recording Secretary