

Wayne County Industrial Development Agency
Regular Board Meeting
9:30 am, December 16th, 2011
16 William Street Meeting Room
Minutes

Present: Board Members Bob Havrilla, Willard Milliman, and Jim Hoffman (chair, WC BOS); Absent, Dave Spickerman, IDA Bd Chair; staff, Peg Churchill and Dave Richards; Counsel, John Morell; others- WC Board of Supervisors members Lucinda Collier, (chair of ad hoc committee to review planning department opening), Ken Miller and Steve Groat.

Vice-Chairman Jim Hoffman called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made.

Minutes were presented. Willard Milliman made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Havrilla and passed unanimously.

Dave Richards presented a revolving loan request from Orion, a Red Creek company developing and producing “mud motors” for the sports and recreation industry. Original request was for \$59,500. The loan review committee recommended a loan of \$25,000, contingent upon balance of funds being committed by a conventional finance organization; the company owner participating in SCORE technical assistance; agreement that if a primary bank gives approval, the IDA would subordinate. Collateral would be the business assets and a 3rd mortgage on the personal residence. It was noted that a small local bank is interested in acting as primary.

Willard Milliman moved the above for \$25,000 with noted contingencies, seconded by Bob Havrilla and passed unanimously.

Discussion moved to the next item on the agenda, the by-laws update and filling the board seat left empty by the death of long-time member Marvin Decker. During previous discussion of the by-laws and terms/term limits, it had been noted that the appointment annually of the Chair of the BOS and Chair of the BOS’ Economic Development and Planning Committee was not by statute or the by-laws but by tradition. Jim Hoffman noted that a 1969 Board of Supervisors resolution (attached) specifically identified the positions as appointees to the first IDA board, and therefore it may not be simply tradition. Amendments to address terms and term limits, it was agreed, should still move forward.

The group then discussed possible individuals to be appointed to the vacant seat by the Board of Supervisors at its organizational meeting on January 3rd. List was narrowed down to three and Mrs. Churchill will contact, starting with the first, and advise Jim Hoffman of acceptance.

Jim Hoffman led into the discussion of the restructuring of Economic Development and Planning for/by Wayne County. A resolution creating the position of Economic Development and Planning Director, moving the economic developer from the IDA to the county department, putting planning, tourism and economic development under the new position, assigning head of IDA position of deputy director for new position along with a job description for new position, is scheduled to be presented at the December 20th Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Hoffman noted that when Sharon Lilla retired as planning director, it was seen as an opportunity to look at the planning department and make changes. He, as chair of the BOS, appointed a five member ad hoc committee comprised of Lucinda Collier as chair and members Bill Hammond, Dave Spickerman, Bob Kelsch and Steve LeRoy. The committee looked at what could be done differently.

The ad hoc committee travelled to Oswego and Ontario Counties to tour and interview planning and economic development staff. After seeing what other counties do, it was determined the WC planning department would become the Economic Development and Planning Department and a new position, the Director of Economic Development and Planning was being created. He stated there was nothing negative towards the IDA or anyone attached to it. He also tied looking at potential changes to planning with recommendations the FAT team had made about six years ago, listing several of the committee recommendations that had been completed.

Mrs. Collier began by explaining the details of the restructuring. She stated that they wanted to broaden the focus of economic development. As for Countywide marketing she explained that the IDA will not be responsible for the marketing piece and communications; essentially, the IDA would be the lending/banking agency. They have given the task of this person to oversee the development of the new department

Both IDA board members Havrilla and Milliman noted that there are no objectives or goals, no measurements included, and expressed that a team, including at least one member from the IDA board (non elected official) should work on clarifying the issues. Staff really wasn't asked what would work effectively. Mrs. Collier did comment, when the reason for seeking change was asked, that yes, the Board of Supervisors did want more control, "after all, we give the IDA all that money and then you do what you want with it". She also expressed that some towns felt there was not enough attention paid to their area..

Under the new plan, while the new department head helped to determine how the department should be shaped, they would also do a strategic plan. Mrs. Churchill interjected that the entire board of supervisors, the IDA board and the WCEDC board passed the current strategic plan; the BOS had, during 2011, three meetings with the IDA to review the strategic plan and update it. Discussion continued with both Mr. Milliman and Havrilla reinforcing their disappointment at the process, along with the need for analytical measurement of goals, objectives and process.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

