

**Village of Algonquin  
Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 10, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

**Agenda Item 1:           Roll Call/Establish Quorum**

PRESENT:       Members: Chairperson Jerry Pinderski, Paul Sigrist, Chip Parker, Brian Rasek, and Kurt Moders. Staff: Russ Farnum and Katie Parkhurst. Absent: Tom McCabe and Dave Ward. Guest: Pam Cumpata, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation.

**Agenda Item 2:           Approve Minutes from the September 10, 2015 and January 14, 2016 Meetings**

Chairperson Pinderski entertained a motion on the minutes from the September 10, 2015 and January 14, 2016 meetings. Mr. Rasek made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Sigrist seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

**Agenda Item 3:           Public Comment**

There was no one in attendance that wished to provide public comment.

**Agenda Item 4:           McHenry County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

Mrs. Pam Cumpata, MCEDC, briefly introduced herself and her role at the MCEDC since she started in 2009. She provided an overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that was recently completed for the region. McHenry County has always been involved in the greater Chicago region through CMAP. By filing the CEDS with the Economic Development Administration it makes this region applicable for grants. The partnership with Boone and Winnebago Counties was a natural fit because our industrial bases are similar and this region needed to update their plans. McHenry County formed a steering committee to catch up to the base level of the other counties so we could move forward with the joint CEDS.

Ms. Cumpata highlighted some of the more noteworthy findings from the CEDS. This County is losing the 25-40-year-old age group. After surveying this group, appropriate housing is not available. Employers here pay 75% of what employers pay in the closer in suburbs and city. Also, owning a car is a necessity in McHenry County because there is not sufficient public transportation. More collaboration is needed for foreign investment, increase the use of Rockford Airport, infrastructure improvements, etc. Developing a work force for today and the future is important goal as well.

A more general discussion of economic development pursued. Ms. Cumpata expressed that business visits are really key because you find out a lot about a company and show you care.

McHenry County is updating their 5-year capital improvement plan. Ms. Cumpata suggests that the EDC talk to County Board members to encourage them to move forward with the Randall Road improvements. There is talk to move improvements to Route 47 instead. The transportation plan is up for a vote in mid-April.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired about how to deal with other local communities that are spending a lot of money to market their communities (Elk Grove Village, Schaumburg, etc). Ms. Cumpata mentioned that

a regional branding and marketing plan is in the works. Real estate taxes are another issue that is being talked about to be more competitive with neighboring states.

Mr. Rasek asked if we know how many companies move over the border to Wisconsin. Ms. Cumpata stated that we have not lost any lately. But, companies need to evaluate all fees and taxes to compare. Mr. Rasek asked where is the land available? Mr. Farnum explained that raw land is all in Kane County; however, the older industrial park is seeing a lot of activity. Ms. Cumpata stated that there are not that many 10,000-20,000 square foot buildings available in the County. This year has been busy for growing companies so far.

Mr. Rasek noted that FedEx is looking to put in another facility in the Chicago region. There is not land available along I-88 anymore. The new facility would be 500,000 square feet.

Ms. Cumpata asked what the vision is for the Algonquin Corporate Campus. Chairperson Pinderski expressed the desire to have places where people can work and live in town. Looking for companies that would have good paying wages.

The Northwest Herald has an advertising option "beacons" that hits people's digital devices when at local trade shows that could highlight us locally.

McHenry County is also working on an incentive package. Algonquin staff has provided comments on the proposal.

Chairperson Pinderski asked what the implementation steps are for the next year. Ms. Cumpata said the regional marketing package, developing workforce for the industries that are here, business outreach, and infrastructure. She also suggested that the Village meet with the new President of McHenry County College.

Volunteers are welcome to join any committees and help move the CEDS forward.

#### **Agenda Item 5: McHenry County Certified Sites Website**

The MCEDC did a strategic plan in 2014 that highlighted the need for prioritizing business attraction. Out of this priority came the Certified Sites program and website. This is to raise the visibility of land and buildings to the world. Averaging 600 hits a month on the website that come from all over the world.

Mr. Rasek inquired about the gold and bronze levels. Ms. Cumpata explained the criteria levels of the data people have available. The sites are not shovel ready, not approved through zoning; however, the sites are ready for development submittals.

Mr. Moders inquired how the information is put on the website. Ms. Cumpata explained that the municipalities compile the information from the brokers/property owners and submit to the MCEDC. The MCEDC then reviews the submissions for compliance and posts on the website.

Chairperson Pinderski asked for clarification on shovel ready term. Mr. Farnum explained that all projects still need to go through the final PUD review process.

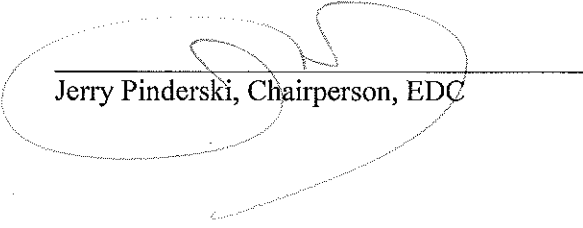
#### **Agenda Item 6: New/Old Business**

Mr. Farnum passed out an article that was printed online in Business in Focus. Circulation of over one million. Village staff provided the information for the article and pictures. A few local businesses bought ads in the magazine so Algonquin was featured for free.

**Agenda Item 7:          Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Approved:



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Jerry Pinderski, Chairperson, EDC