

**Village of Algonquin  
Economic Development Commission  
May 13, 2010  
7:00 p.m.**

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

PRESENT: Members: Chairperson Steve Karaba, Jerry Pinderski, Jack Navarrete, Mary Fioretti, and Linda Laipert. Staff: Katie Parkhurst and Russ Farnum. Absent: Tom McCabe.

**Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the January 14, 2010 meeting.**

Chairperson Karaba entertained a motion on the minutes from the January 14, 2010 meeting. Ms. Fioretti made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2010 meeting and Mr. Pinderski seconded. A voice vote noted all ayes, motion passed.

**Agenda Item 3: Business Visitation Reports—Algonquin Town Center**

Mrs. Katie Parkhurst reported that staff is focusing on the business retention program by conducting more business visitations. Staff and EDC members visited with many of the tenants in the Algonquin Town Center and Edgemark, the management company, to discuss business in this slow economy.

Mr. Pinderski expressed that the shopping dynamics have changed over the years and the retailers need to adapt to that to remain competitive.

Ms. Fioretti expressed the need for the Village to communicate with businesses (managers and owners) and the property owners about items that might impact their business. Ms. Parkhurst stated that the Business Connection newsletter is the main form of communication.

Ms. Laipert inquired how the rents within the Algonquin Town center compare to other centers. Ms. Parkhurst stated they seem to be competitive. The main issue is that many of the tenant leases are coming due and the landlord needs to cover his expenses. The property owner has been working with the tenants to try to keep them all in business and keep the shopping center viable.

**Agenda Item 4: Industrial Reports—Piqued Interest and Nortillo Associates Reports, MCEDC Manufacturing Meeting, Algonquin Industrial Park, and Melaniphy 2009 Annual Sales Report**

Mrs. Parkhurst briefly explained the report that was compiled from work Joyce McArdle and Teresa Nortillo had done for marketing the Algonquin Corporate Campus. Chairperson Karaba asked that this be further discussed at the June EDC meeting.

Mrs. Parkhurst reported on the McHenry County Economic Development Commission's Manufacturing and Legislative Exchange meeting that she attended on April 8<sup>th</sup>. There are

resources available for all size companies to help them find funding, workforce training, marketing, and networking connections. The MCEDC does work with the legislatures to keep McHenry County and Illinois competitive in the industrial sector.

Mrs. Parkhurst mentioned that staff had met with the brokers representing many buildings within the Algonquin Industrial Park (located off of West Algonquin Road).

Chairperson Karaba asked that the Melaniphy's Annual Report be discussed at the next EDC meeting.

**Agenda Item 5: McHenry County Economic Development Corporation—Presentation by Pam Cumpata**

Mrs. Parkhurst introduced Pam Cumpata, MCEDC President, who was invited to share what work the MCEDC does and how the Village can partner with and benefit from the work of the MCEDC.

Ms. Cumpata explained that the MCEDC's focus is on primary employers because they drive the local economy. While unemployment in McHenry County is at 11.3%, other surrounding counties have higher rates. McHenry County is well positioned with a diverse mix of industrial sectors. MCEDC's goal is to work with the County, the municipalities, and the companies to share information, locate businesses within the County and to keep companies here. Ms. Cumpata noted that site selectors are starting to call the MCEDC office again, which is good news the economy may be picking up slightly. Most inquiries have been for existing spaces and buildings.

The MCEDC will be hosting a meeting to discuss the idea of Economic Gardening with the municipalities. Katie and Ben will be attending this meeting. Economic Gardening is a way to share data with retailers to help them better market their business, this helps grow the local economy.

The MCEDC is focusing efforts on expanding utilities to keep up with the latest technology. Foreign Trade Zones are tracking all imports/exports from McHenry County. This data can help with supply chains.

Mr. Pinderski asked how cooperative the MCEDC would be with Algonquin since most of our new industrial growth will be in Kane County. Ms. Cumpata stated the MCEDC will work with Algonquin, even if the company locates in the Kane County portion of the Village because the employees still need a place to live, shop, and play. This is a global market and we all need to work together.

**Agenda Item 6: Other Business**

Mr. Pinderski inquired about the businesses that are being relocated due to the Western Bypass project. Ms. Parkhurst explained that staff was very proactive and met with the businesses several times to offer assistance with finding new locations within Algonquin. However, we

have heard that several of the businesses are relocating out of Algonquin. Parkside Auto is going to Lake in the Hills, Burnex may be moving to Ringwood, and the Prairie Trail Bike Shop is going to Fox River Grove. Staff continues to work with the businesses as best we can; however the ultimate decision is made by the business.

**Agenda Item 7:      Adjournment**

There was no further business to discuss; the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Approved:

   
Steve Karaba, Chairperson, EDC