

**Village of Algonquin
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
May 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

Agenda Item 1: Roll Call/Establish Quorum

PRESENT: Members: Chairperson Jerry Pinderski, Commissioners: Paul Sigrist, Dave Ward, and Brian Rasek. Absent: Chip Parker, Tom McCabe and Kurt Moders. Staff: Katie Parkhurst. Guests: John Bradarich, Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center and Andy Cave, Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center.

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from the March 10, 2016 Meeting

Chairperson Pinderski entertained a motion on the minutes from the March 10, 2016 meeting. 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: Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center

Mr. John Bradarich, and Mr. Andy Cave of Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) briefly introduced themselves and their roles at IMEC. IMEC is a not-for-profit funded by the Department of Commerce and private foundations. IMEC is a partner organization that is available in 60 offices throughout the Country. The goal is to help manufactures grow and prosper. The staff of IMEC each have 20+ years of manufacturing experience. Mr. Bradarich assists with grants, especially for training. IMEC has good working relationships with the County's Economic Development agencies. IMEC helps explain to companies how their tax dollars can come back to work for them. IMEC offers some services for free and others for a fee.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired about the level of workforce that IMEC works with. Mr. Bradarich explained that it is all levels from maintenance to CFO levels. They also do training for existing employees.

Mr. Bradarich helps work with vendors to break up invoices into machine cost and training cost. The company can get reimbursement on training costs, not the machine costs. The vendors get paid the same and they often ask IMEC to help them with other companies that are looking to purchase their machines.

Mr. Rasek asked about placement for people. How do you source candidates? Mr. Bradarich said they start with the unemployed first because they qualify for the On The Job training that benefits the companies. They are working on expanding apprenticeship programs.

There is also a program for businesses that have been negatively impacted by foreign competition (Trade Adjustment Act).

Success story: Young Innovations was looking to consolidate their operations from multiple states. The Village of Algonquin brought together IMEC, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and

DCEO to talk to Young Innovations about their needs and to provide assistance as possible to encourage Young Innovations to expand within Algonquin. Young Innovations decided to move their California operations to Algonquin instead of their Fort Wayne location. Young Innovations has used On The Job Training through IMEC.

Mr. Sigrist inquired how many businesses in Algonquin has IMEC worked with? Mr. Bradarich stated a few. IMEC has worked with Kenmode and Young Innovations recently. IMEC has done work with Dura Life in the past.

Mr. Rasek inquired about funding. Mr. Cave explained that the initial consultation is free, the company can meet with IMEC many times for no charge. Once a project is started, a proposal is accepted, then a cost is charged to the company. A follow up survey after the project is done is really the criteria to ensure future funding from the Federal government. IMEC's placement service is free and they work with the County's Workforce Agency. A mini-project can be done for free to show the company the value of the IMEC services.

Mr. Cave is the Lake and McHenry County technical representative. He provided examples of projects that he has worked on with companies. He helps companies expand their markets, broaden their niche, gain certifications, and have lean manufacturing.

Mr. Ward inquired what is the average time IMEC is engaged with a company. Mr. Bradarich stated the hope is a long-term relationship, to become trusted advisors. A mini project could be 3 days, but a typical project would be 6-9 months.

Mr. Rasek inquired how do they deal with resistance from employees that are not willing/ready to change. Mr. Cave explained that most projects experience some resistance, but they will work through this. If there is not enough cooperation or movement the project can be put on hold. However, IMEC really works with the companies to go through the coaching phase to get everyone on board and make positive changes.

Chairperson Pinderski inquired how can we get businesses to Algonquin. Mr. Bradarich stated that the Village should keep him informed about spaces that are available. IMEC can be a great resource for business looking to come to Algonquin or threatening to leave.

Chairperson Pinderski stated this would be a good resource for some of his clients. Mr. Ward stated that some of his clients have used their resources.

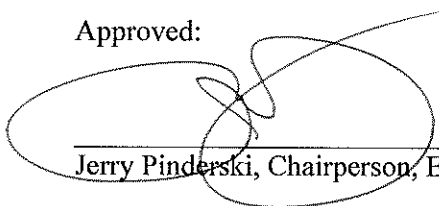
Agenda Item 5: New/Old Business

A general discussion was had regarding new businesses coming to the Village and projects under construction.

Agenda Item 6: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved:



Jerry Pinderski, Chairperson, EDC