

# **MACOMB/BUSHNELL ENTERPRISE ZONE**

## **MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING THURSDAY • JANUARY 21, 2021 • 4PM 1406 EAST CARROLL STREET, MACOMB, ILLINOIS AND VIA ZOOM WEB CONFERENCE**

*The global COVID-19 pandemic continues...and since June 26, 2020 continue to operate under the Governor's RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN (Phase 4: Revitalization). This phase allows for expanded gathering sizes, increasing from 10 to 50 people (of fewer). The minutes below are from the 1Q-January 2021 management board meeting. The board was offered to attend today's board meeting (2Q-April 2021) via web conferencing or in-person. Common public health standards were in place; including, the use of face coverings/masks and social distancing (6' apart from each other).*

Chairman Dennis Moon convened the meeting at 4PM with the following board members physically present: Scott Schwerer, Mayor Mike Inman, and Todd Hamilton. Staff present: Kim Pierce and Caitlin Brown.

Those attending via web conferencing (zoom): Jeff Rensch and Mayor Robin Wilt.

Media present: Patrick Stout (McDonough County Voice)

There was no public comment.

Affirmation of board members (2021-2023) was first on the agenda. McDonough County Board Chair Scott Schwerer and City of Bushnell Mayor Robin Wilt needed to reaffirm their seats on the board. They both agreed to serve another term. Wilt wanted to make note that she is up for re-election (in April) and in the event she does not get re-elected she wants to ensure the Mayor will continue to have a seat on the EZ board. Pierce assured her the seat belongs to the Mayor (whomever he/she may be).

The City of Macomb has one vacant seat as Bill Butcher retired and decided not to continue serving on the board. Mayor Inman will identify and appoint someone to fill the vacancy in the very near future.

Approval of the November 19, 2020 (4Q) board meeting minutes was first on the agenda. The minutes were reviewed for comment and/or revisions. There were none.

**SCOTT SCHWERER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PRESENTED. ROBIN WILT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next on the agenda was the treasury report. Pierce referred the board members to the expense summary sheet in their meeting packet. She reported that (on the behalf of the EZ program) the Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation (MAEDCO) paid \$281.32 which reflects the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter share of telephone expenses. She asked approval for the annual administration fee (\$15K) for a total reimbursement of \$15,281.32.

**MIKE INMAN MOVED TO APPROVED THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AS PRESENTED. ROBIN WILT SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

She referred the board to the December bank statement and the corresponding QuickBooks report, both showing an ending balance of \$189,403.46. Pierce commented that revenue included interest earned as well as two (2) project application fees. Schwerer asked what the ending balance of the account was a year ago (December 2019). Pierce said she would look the balance up and email the board.

**SCOTT SCHWERER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. TODD HAMILTON SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Governing unit updates were next on the agenda. **BUSHNELL:** Mayor Wilt reported that Schuld/Bushnell continues to work on their new building. She also reported that there is a new shipping company located within the zone, but they did not utilize the benefits because they are renting the building. **MACOMB:** Inman reported ongoing projects at NTN.

**McDONOUGH COUNTY:** Schwerer reported that the proposed windfarm (southeast in the county) continues to proceed forward, although they are not utilizing the enterprise zone benefits. Pierce reminded everyone that windfarms qualify for exemptions by registering with the State as a HIB project (high impact business). She said early on the State realized that wind farms were utilizing too many acres of EZ designated sites. The alternative was to identify them as HIB and keep the EZ designated sites for smaller localized projects. Pierce also reported that Western Grain Marketing was in the process of constructing a new grain bin at their unit train shuttle facility.

Under old/new business, Chairman Moon reminded everyone the next board meeting is scheduled for 4PM, April 15, 2021—Pierce reminded everyone that dates are subject to change because of COVID-19 and that they will continue to offer the meeting in person and via web conferencing.

Inman mentioned the board should consider modifying the by-laws to consider attendance via web conferencing/call-in for situations due to inclement weather, pandemic, not for attendees on vacations, etc. Pierce asked if she could review the verbiage that the City of Macomb had incorporated in their guidelines and she'd modify accordingly for the Enterprise Zone board to review and adopt. Inman agreed to her request to share.

There was no executive session.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim Pierce, Zone Administrator