

Members Present

Mr. Tripp, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Einfeldt, Mr. Washington, Mr. Reid, Ms. Polk, Ms. Evans, and Mr. Tholen

Members Absent

Mr. Olthoff, Mr. James, Mr. Vickery, and Mr. Liehr

In Attendance

- **Board Members**

Mr. Bossert and Mr. McConnell

- **Department Heads**

- **Media**

Present

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Washington at 9:00 a.m. Quorum present.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2015

Mr. Reid made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Polk seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

4. Planning/Economic Development

- **Report**

Mr. Van Mill gave a PowerPoint presentation on the activities of the Economic Development area of his office for 2014 and what has occurred so far in 2015.

Mr. Van Mill stated that for the second year in a row the Milken Institute came out and showed that Kankakee was the best performing small city in the State of Illinois and it is ranked nationally in the top third for jobs, wages, and technology.

Mr. Van Mill stated that he had hoped to have the annual report of the Economic Alliance for the committee today but it is in the process of being printed. It shows that in Kankakee County in 2014 there was over \$650 million in capital investment and over 1300 jobs were either created or retained. The report will be used to attract new business to the community and will help us go to industry to look at ways for them to help us fund our operations because he knows that funding through the county is a challenge. They will also use the report to help educate the public in the things that they do and what they are involved in.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they completed the 2014 CEDS & Economic Development Plan in January 2014 and they did get their document certified by the U.S. Economic Development Administration which now makes them eligible for certain federal grants that they would not have been eligible to receive otherwise. They are in the process of evaluating some grant applications right now, both for the Innovation Center and for some industrial type road projects that will help facilitate growth.

Mr. Van Mill stated that in 2014 they led the effort to certify the two enterprise zones. They also lead the efforts here coordinating the Illiana Expressway. Right now they have been approved but not awarded a grant for \$500,000 with Will County to evaluate the impact of the Illiana Expressway.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they have maintained and enhanced a good relationship with ONU and KCC in a number of areas, including job training and the Innovation Center. They have also partnered with communities to look at how they want to market and attract business to the Tri-Village area around the 6000 interchange.

Mr. Van Mill stated that in January they assisted 11 businesses with job training efforts connecting them to possible grants and to KCC to help them improve their work force that they currently have. They also did a top employer training survey that also looked at their needs over the next 12 to 24 months.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they see quite a bit of plant manager turnover and it is always a challenge to build relationships within these industries to make sure that they know what is going on. They are regularly having familiarization tours of the community which is where they invite new plant managers to take a tour and then they have a reception so that they can meet other new plant managers in our community and get a familiarization of the area. They have received great feedback on this. They are planning on having another one in May of this year.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they have seven new business prospects in different phases of planning that are looking in Kankakee County at various sites. It is his hope that in the next six weeks they are going to be able to announce one of them.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they are launching Enterprise U again this year. The final presentations will end in June.

Mr. Van Mill stated that his office is working with Riverside and ONU on the Catalyst Innovation Center and working to get grants for it. They do have a really good relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention of Visitors Bureau and it might be a good idea if they all came together to give the board a presentation how they are working effectively together. They are also co-chairing the Chamber's Development Committee.

Mr. Van Mill stated that one of the things that they launched in December was the CHEE (Coalition for Hope and Excellence in Education). They have gotten funding from DOW & BASF to help with this program. The idea is to reduce the drop-out rate in our high schools and to insure that our students that are in high school are educated on what kind of jobs are available in our community and what skill levels they need for those jobs. At last week's Advisory Committee's strategic planning session they had over 45 attendees that included companies that are interested in being involved to insure that they have the skilled workforce to be sustainable and successful.

Mr. Van Mill stated that they were very happy to see that the letting for the I-57 Exit 318/Bourbonnais Parkway Interchange was let which will be a huge benefit to our community. There is going to be over 2000 acres of industrial land that have TIF and other economic development incentives. They have been able to bring Bradley, Bourbonnais, and Manteno together to look at a unified approach to marketing that area.

Mr. Van Mill stated that in December the Village of Bradley asked them to come in to do a strategic plan for them. They held one half-day session with their village board members and their top appointed officials to look at the Village of Bradley from various angles and at what kind of things that they want to extract out to advance Bradley's initiatives. They are working very closely with them to develop a vision statement for the community. They have also brought in a design professional to look at helping to bolster and enhance the

Brookmont corridor and to also enhance the Route 50 corridor from the interchange in Bradley, south to North Street.

Mr. Van Mill stated that there is a Kankakee County Advocacy Day in Springfield in April. The Chamber has come up with a number of areas of common interest around the county – the Illiana Expressway, the preservation and economic development of the Kankakee River, the Enterprise Zone certifications for the future, and some of their CEDS capital projects.

Mr. Van Mill stated that the Alliance, Chamber, and CVB partnerships are the gateways and corridors in community making them better. They are cooperating on a number of promotional strategies and on the Bears Camp. The Bears Camp last year is a good example of how they were able to work together.

Mr. Van Mill stated that the Illiana Expressway passed Tier Two back in December; although, it has been put on hold by Governor Rauner.

Mr. Tipp asked if they have any support in Springfield on the Illiana. Do they understand why we support it?

Mr. Van Mill stated that it is not a surprise that Governor Rauner put a hold on it. It has been controversial in the Chicagoland region and it was a project from the past administration. He wants to be optimistic that the process will move forward.

Mr. Polk asked what is happening with the building in Pembroke.

Mr. Van Mill stated that he talked to them about 45 days ago and they had a potential buyer. He has not heard an update since then.

Mr. Reid asked what was going in by the new Aldi's on St. George Road.

Mr. Van Mill stated that a gas station was going to be built there.

5. Building

• Building Report – January 2015

Mr. Van Mill reviewed the building report with the committee. He stated that February is a little on the slower side. They will start to prepare themselves for the building season. They are seeing about 16 new homes in the works right now. He thinks that they are starting to see new residential development come back a little bit which is encouraging.

Mr. Tholen made a motion to approve the report and Mr. Einfeldt seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

• Building Code Update – Public Hearing

Mr. Van Mill stated that now that they have a full board of Examiners & Appeals members they held a meeting last week to introduce the board members to what their responsibilities are. Over the course of the last six months all the municipalities have updated or are close to updating their building codes to the 2012 series. Right now the County is at the 2003 series. They want to bring their building code in-line with the municipalities so they are all consistent throughout the county. On March 10 they will conduct a public hearing here with the Board of Examiners and Appeals to get a recommendation to forward to this

committee next month in order to update their code to the 2012 series which will keep them in-line with everybody else in the county.

6. Zoning

- **Zoning Map – Update 2015**

Mr. Van Mill stated that statutorily every year they have to publish an updated zoning map. They incorporate the changes that have occurred during 2014 onto the map.

Mr. Tholen made a motion to approve the new zoning map and Mr. Reid seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

7. Transportation

- **Rural Transit Service Operator**

Mr. Lammey stated that at the January PZA Meeting he showed the committee the letter that they sent out to possible rural service operators for our rural transit service. They had one response and it was from our current transit operator, SHOW BUS. They are now going to negotiate a purchase of service agreement with SHOW BUS and they will come back to this committee in March with that agreement. At the March meeting they will also have a brief description of what they do service-wise for the next year.

Mr. Bossert asked if it is typical in other communities that there is very limited interest in bidding for this type of service.

Mr. Lammey stated that once you get an operator they very seldom change in the state. There is not a lot of money to be made which may be part of the reason so if you find a not-for-profit operator that does a good job, which he thinks we have, then they want us to keep their business and so do we. There are a number of counties that go for a profit and they go out to bid every time. There is some disadvantage with changing operators every year.

Mr. Bossert stated that he has heard that there is a fair amount of turmoil in other counties as far as local providers. We have been very fortunate to have very stable operations here.

Mr. Lammey stated that most of those go for for-profit operators and this is a difficult business to make a profit in.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

- **Solid Waste Consultant Agreement**

Mr. Bossert stated that a couple months ago this committee directed him to work with our outside attorney on solid waste matters to come to a satisfactory close-out of the solid waste agreement with our outside consultants. That discussion has been ongoing and in the last couple weeks an outline of an agreement came to him from our attorney; although, he has not seen a written agreement. He was assured yesterday that he would have it today but so far he has not seen it. They should have a written agreement by the Finance Committee Meeting next week and they will consider the agreement at that time and hopefully will get it onto the full board in March. Mr. Boyd has been informed all along as to the progress of this agreement but largely they have left it to Mr. Helston to work out.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. was made by Mr. Tholen and seconded by Mr. Tripp. Motion carried.

George Washington, Vice-Chairman
Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator