

**MINUTES OF THE  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007**

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Tuesday, February 6, 2007, in the Board Room, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brdak, Brown, Camphous-Peterson, DeSaele, DiMaria, Drolet, Duzyj, Gieleghem, Rengert, Roberts and Crouchman (ex-officio).

Absent and excused were Haggerty and Mijac.

**Other Commissioners Also Present:**

Commissioner Lund  
Commissioner Slinde

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Camphous-Peterson, supported by Duzyj, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by DiMaria, to approve the December 5, 2006 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

**APPROVE TO HIRE CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by DeSaele, supported by Rengert, to approve the hiring of Rebecca Kraus & Associates to prepare a Strategic Plan for the Planning and Economic Development (PED) Department at a cost not to exceed \$24,935. Funding is available in the Department's Aerial Photo Account. **Forward to the Budget Committee.**

Mr. Cassin explained that the proposed strategic planning process would determine needs, define objectives, and efficiently allocate staff resources for each of the PED Department's four program areas, including Planning and Environment, Community Development, Graphics and GIS, and Economic Development.

A lengthy discussion ensued with Mr. Cassin pertaining to this request. It was felt that there are many capable planners within Macomb County's communities and that the focus should be more on economic development. It was suggested that new commissioners be provided with a copy of Focus Macomb's report, the Intellitrends report, Gyro's reports, the Visioning Task Force report, as well as any other information on what has already transpired.

Chair Vosburg stepped down from the Chair at 9:37 a.m.

Commissioner Brdak took the Chair.

Commissioner Vosburg spoke in support of this request.

Chair Vosburg took the Chair at 9:40 a.m.

Some commissioners felt that Mr. Cassin should be doing his own strategic plan. They felt there has been enough reports generated.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Voting Yes were Brown, Camphous-Peterson, DeSaele, Rengert, Roberts and Vosburg. There were 6 "Yes" votes.

Voting No were Brdak, Drolet, Duzyj and Gieleghem. There were 4 "No" votes.

**The Motion Carried.**

## **RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE ON ROMEO AIRPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Rengert, supported by Duzyj, to receive and file the report from C&S Engineers pertaining to the Romeo Airport Feasibility Study.

Contained within committee packets was a 20-page Romeo State Airport Feasibility Study - Draft Report – Executive Summary that was prepared by C&S Engineers.

Mr. Robert Wheaton from C&S Engineers provided an update on the draft feasibility study. They are about 99% through the process. The final report should be issued within a couple months.

Commissioner Rengert recognized Ms. Deborah Obrecht, Treasurer, Bruce Township and Mr. Dave Ebert, Ray Township Planning Department who were in the audience.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Wheaton and Ms. Obrecht. Some commissioners felt that the PED Department should be used to support efforts to enhance opportunities at the airport. Some commissioners felt it would be best to leave the airport in the hands of the state. It was noted that no matter what, the airport will remain an airport whether Macomb County takes it over or not.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

## **RECEIVE AND FILE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Gielegem, to receive and file the verbal departmental activities report from Mr. Stephen Cassin, Executive Director, PED Department.

Mr. Cassin introduced Mr. Jim Ahee, new Economic Development Attraction Specialist.

He overviewed the one-page sheet that was provided in committee packets that listed companies that his department worked with over the last year -- investment of \$155,480,000 and over 1,600 jobs were created.

He spoke about the upcoming Focus Macomb Annual Meeting which will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Planners Exchange which will be held on April 19th, and Legislative Day which will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Rengert requested that Mr. Cassin bring back to a future meeting of this committee the economic development chart with an update on dates, expenditures, and budgetary changes.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.  
**The Motion Carried.**

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**Denise M. Jacks**  
**Committee Reporter**