

Economic Development Meeting

Feb 3, 2021

Attending: Dave Behrens, Don Howard, Angie Hibben, Terry Anderson, Christie, Lisa Wentzell, Terry Anderson, Scott McMaster, Troy Parlier

Approval of Minutes – send out June 3rd 2020 if I have them

Old Business: Nothing

New Business: Scott McMaster, new Economic Development Director. Troy spoke and told us that he told Scott this is the best committee and the most important one in the community. He also told him that these are the people that help drive Oswego and that this committee is super important for Oswego – give them something to do. Troy is 99.9% focused on Economic Development and this is such a powerful group if used correctly and will help Scott. You get the economic engine going and problems go away. It's where we need to be.

Good news from the Village: Unemployment in the state 6.5%, Kendall 5.2, Oswego 5.1, December 7.5, County 6.9, Oswego 6.8. CMAP Again reported that Kendall County is the fastest growing county in the state. There is a lot to be proud of here and a huge selling point. 3 million surplus in 2020, 8 months into this fiscal year our sales tax revenue is only down 1.5% - that says volumes The state is in the teens as being down. Oswego is running at a 2 million surplus this year through a covid year and haven't had to touch the 3 million surplus from last year. We did not cut services to get that surplus – we added services (caravans through the neighborhoods, reinstated the park way program, kept the tree trimming program, paved 2.5 miles of road and did the downtown alley's). We have continued the plan with our entertainment venue and the old police station was sold. The bid for entertainment venue was under budget due to donations etc. from the community. This will be something to be proud of in Oswego and something to be proud of.

Committee of the Whole meeting last night was a complete bear bones overhaul of the TIFF. Biggest animal around here for a long time – for a long time no answers to why we have all these extra expenses so 2 meetings ago Troy asked Dan to set a meeting to go over things. In 2016 a budget was adopted of over \$24 million and in less than a year that was exceeded and the public was never notified. We are \$29.5 million that was committed to the project and another \$1.5 that Troy will put into project because nothing was put in for pedestrian safety plus interest payments for \$37 million for increment. Over 5 years we have over \$500,000 of increment so we have 18 years to come up with the rest of the 37 million. Troy's concern is until we come to the break even point of the Tiff we have been subsidizing this out of the general fund and that will have some effect on public projects like the new water project and wolf rd and we can't stop those. We need the water and we need to expand/widen Wolf crossing and create an economic corridor. Troy is confident we are going to do it and he thought it was about time the public be informed of the facts, etc. Told Scott you have a great tool here in the committee.

Scott piggy backed on what Troy said and feels this is a huge tool. He is new to having this tool to use and is excited to have this team which he feels is an extension of the staff of the Village. This meeting is a kickoff for us to get to know him and his goals and our views/goals. He was from real estate and business development before here. Very familiar to development before public experience. So many great aspects to our village including the downtown. There is interest in Route 34 still, lots of interest in downtown, Orchard Rd is a blank canvas now. Open to ideas and would like to hear our goals. There was no chamber in Crest Hill it was just being formed it's in between Joliet/Shorewood/Plainfield which are over developed.

Reports

Scott – not much of a report right now but will. He will be sending a monthly report to us. His door, email, etc are always open. Wants to know what each of us expect. Has a connection with a bbq restaurant and looking to start franchising and are interested in Oswego and needs a franchisee. They currently have 5 locations (fire water bbq) and looking to expand/franchise. Investor will buy the building and build it out for the franchisee. Been working on downtown – sprucing up some of the buildings (presentable gateway to Main Street); reaching out to previous contacts he has – they have interest just need the right opportunities.

Don asked if he has a list that he envisions coming to Oswego that he can give to us as we may know someone in that industry that may come here. He will send us the list he has. Working on getting Sales Force more functional – he is familiar but not in an Economic Development role more in a real estate role. He likes to meet Face to Face. Important that the small business owners feel they are important to the village. Some renters moving in soon and retail have had interest also. Downtown is such an asset and business owners will like to be downtown. Working on parking issues. Dave asked how do we find out where he is pushing and what he is pushing for – are we on the same page with the commission. Dave feels it should be unique. Scott agrees it should be destination places not big names down here at the most a regional place. No cookie cutter. Brewery is a big draw. Working on getting the winery downtown. Takes pride in what he does and makes sure things are good for the community.

10/10/10 rule 10 places to eat/10 destinations to shop and 10 places open after 6

He can't do his job if we aren't working together and we don't feel like we are needed. Terry said the biggest was we would say we want to help and we were told no and no info would be given to us and it is confidential. He will keep us informed to the best that he is allowed to.


Dave asked about Pedestrian crossings. Scott is not familiar with this – it falls under community development but he will get the info as it helps him also.

EDC member comments/reports: No reports just excited to welcome Scott here and work with him.

Public Forum – opened and closed as no one for the public

Lisa Wentzell made a motion to adjourn and a 2nd was made by Don. Adjourned at 6:50 pm

Submitted by Angie Hibben

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The name "Angie Hibben" is written across two lines, with "Angie" on the top line and "Hibben" on the bottom line.