

DODGE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MARCH 29, 2021 1:00 P.M.

FIRST FLOOR – ROOMS H & I AUDITORIUM

DODGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, JUNEAU, WI 53039

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Dodge County Executive Committee Chairman, Russell Kottke.

Members present: Frohling, Kottke, Marsik, J. Schmitt, and Schaefer

Member(s) excused: Hilbert, Sheahan-Malloy

Others present: Representatives from the following Dodge County Municipalities: Cities of Watertown, Beaver Dam, Waupun, Horicon, Mayville, Fox Lake, Juneau; Villages of Hustisford, Kekoskee, Lomira, Reeseville, Randolph, Lowell. Towns of, Beaver Dam, Lebanon, Hubbard, Fox Lake, Emmet. Others, County Administrator Jim Mielke; Corporation Counsel Kimberly Nass; Information Technology Director Justin Reynolds; Land Resources and Parks Director Bill Ehlenbeck; Planning and Economic Development Administrator Nate Olson; ThriveED Executive Director Vicki Pratt; ThriveED Managing Director of Business Development Deb Reinbold; County Board Supervisor Jeff Caine; WBEV Reporter Kevin Haugen; and Daily Citizen Reporter Ken Thomas.

Chair Kottke welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for making the time to attend today's meeting. Chair Kottke requested those in attendance introduce themselves, including their municipality.

Nate Olson, Vicki Pratt and Deb Reinbold provided an overview of their respective roles in providing economic development assistance to county municipalities.


Chair Kottke asked a representative from each municipality to provide an overview of economic development issues and concerns. Common concerns include, single family housing; senior housing; labor shortages, industrial park expansion; diversification of businesses.

Supervisor Schmitt inquired of those with economic development staff, how do you measure quantified results? He noted the county is struggling with how to measure the results of efforts with ThriveEd and the return of the investment since 2017. Responses ranged from capital investment, jobs, who brings people to the door, meeting overall goals. Comments also noted economic development takes time, need to take the long view.

Chair Kottke initiated discussion regarding thoughts of how to proceed, is there interest in creating an Economic Development Advisory Council? The expressed consensus was the discussion was good, and was overdue.

Chair Kottke informed the municipal representatives, he will look at identifying potential appointments to a council. No time line was presented.

The meeting was adjourned at the Call of Chair Kottke at 3:17 p.m.


County Administrator