

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Sorensen, Members Owens, Segobiano, Renner, Nuckolls, Bostic, Gordon, and Butler

Members Absent: Member Hoselton

Other Board Members Present: Member Soeldner

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/
Elected Officials Present: None

Others Present: Mr. Marty Vanags, CEO, Economic Development Council; Mr. Ken Springer, Project Analyst, Economic Development Council; and Ms. Christine Davis, President and Owner, CAMtek, Inc.

Chairman Sorensen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman Sorensen presented the minutes from the December 8, 2009 Executive Committee meeting for approval. Hearing no additions or corrections to those minutes, Chairman Sorensen advised that the minutes would stand approved as presented.

Chairman Sorensen presented the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations.

Motion by Segobiano/Owens to Recommend Approval of the Reappointments, Appointments and Resignations as recommended by the Chairman.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to Ms. Kelly Curran, a Member of the Central Catholic High School 2009 Girls' Cross Country Team – County Administrator's Office.

Mr. Segobiano recommended that Ms. Curran's Resolution be amended to include the fact that she was one of twelve finalists for the Wendy's High School Heisman, which recognizes the nation's most esteemed high school senior men and women for excellence in academics, athletics, and community involvement. The Committee concurred with Mr. Segobiano's recommendation.

Motion by Segobiano/Gordon to Recommend Approval of a Resolution of Congratulations to Ms. Kelly Curran, a Member of the Central Catholic High School 2009 Girls' Cross Country Team, as amended – County Administrator's Office.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen presented a request for approval of an Ordinance Amending "An Ordinance Describing and Designating an area located partially within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and Unincorporated McLean County as an Enterprise Zone" – County Administrator's Office.

Motion by Owens/Bostic to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Amending "An Ordinance Describing and Designation an area located partially within the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and Unincorporated McLean County as an Enterprise Zone" – County Administrator's Office.

Chairman Sorensen introduced Mr. Ken Springer, Project Analyst, Economic Development Council and Ms. Christine Davis, President and Owner of CAMtek, Inc.

Mr. Springer advised that this ordinance submitted by the Economic Development Council seeks to extend the boundaries of the Enterprise Zone in order to cover approximately 20 acres located at 2402 E. Empire St. in Bloomington. The site in question is the home to the former IRS processing center, which has been vacant for nearly three years.

Mr. Springer stated that EDC has been working on a deal with Ms. Davis, President of CAMtek, Inc., a manufacturing company of circuitry components, to expand its operation. He noted that CAMtek, Inc. was founded in 1999 and began operations in 2000 in Bloomington. Mr. Springer explained that CAMtek is an electronics manufacturer services (EMS) provider, specializing in technology-advanced printed circuit card assembly and other value-added services to a wide range of industries including aerospace, medical, military, communications, agriculture and large equipment manufacturers. He added that the company

provides high-quality, cost-effective manufacturing solutions to customers located throughout the United States, shipping to on-shore and off-shore locations, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and processes, while operating in a pristine “green” climate-controlled manufacturing environment.

Mr. Springer indicated that, currently, CAMtek is leasing about 20,000 square feet of space on G.E. Road, but, due to the growth in the company, an expansion is needed in order for that company to grow. He noted that CAMtek currently employs 38 full-time employees and anticipates adding additional employees in the future. Mr. Springer stated that because the company has reached a point where growth is critical, they started looking for a different facility in which to house their operation.

Mr. Springer advised that CAMtek is a very valuable company to our community. He noted that the company is an economic exporter, which means that virtually all of CAMtek’s business is exported to other areas of the country. Therefore, when CAMtek makes a sale, they are bringing new dollars into the community from outside.

Mr. Springer stated that EDC began discussing this project with CAMtek in March 2009. He noted that CAMtek is a very valuable company and has received offers from other states to lure them away from Bloomington-Normal. Mr. Springer indicated that, because of CAMtek’s value, EDC, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity put together a comprehensive incentive package to keep CAMtek in Bloomington. Part of that incentive package is the Enterprise Zone extension, which is being considered today.

Mr. Springer noted that CAMtek is considering moving into the vacant IRS facility located at 2402 E. Empire Street in Bloomington. He added that CAMtek would lease 98,000 square feet in that building, which would quadruple their size and allow them to add a new production line. Mr. Springer stated that, initially, the company will hire about 29 new employees with the potential of up to 60 more employees in the coming years as growth warrants.

Mr. Springer advised that the Ordinance before the Executive Committee would expand the McLean County, Bloomington-Normal Enterprise Zone in order to cover the site of the IRS building which would offer CAMtek some sales tax exemption on building and construction materials that they will need to improve the building. He noted that this is part of the overall incentive package. Mr. Springer stated that the remainder of the local incentive package is still unknown. He indicated that one of the incentives being discussed, but not decided upon, is possible limited property tax abatement on improvements made at the sight.

Mr. Springer stated that this ordinance went before the Bloomington City Council last night and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Segobiano congratulated Ms. Davis on keeping her business in Bloomington and conveyed his support of the Ordinance. He expressed some concern with the potential of the company receiving abatement on its property taxes while community members are dealing with increased property taxes in this difficult current economic condition. Mr. Segobiano also encouraged Ms. Davis to employ as many local individuals rather than outside employees.

Mr. Segobiano indicated that the Economic Development Council needs to continue to work diligently to bring jobs into the community and to fill some of the local vacant buildings, but he cautioned against offering property tax abatements.

Mr. Nuckolls asked Ms. Davis to clarify the timeline for the immediate addition of 29 employees to CAMtek. Ms. Davis replied that the immediate increase in new positions will occur over a period of three years, but she expects a continued increase in new employees over the next several years. She stated that the contracts being received by CAMtek are two, five and ten year contracts. Ms. Davis indicated that, with the increasing size of commitment and the larger projects, CAMtek has stepped into the next level of competitiveness, moving CAMtek from a micro-size company to the beginning stages of becoming a small EMS Company. She noted that every contract that CAMtek wins adds three to five new employees.

Ms. Davis advised that she started CAMtek almost eleven years ago. She indicated that she has put every penny the company has made back into the company and its employees. Ms. Davis added that she did not lay off any employees this year.

Mr. Segobiano asked what Ms. Davis projects for the company in the next ten to fifteen years. Ms. Davis replied that she expects a 25%+ growth increase for the company. She pointed out that her industry is unique in that she does not own her own product; rather other companies outsource their electronic needs to CAMtek. Ms. Davis noted that when the economy is down, CAMtek can boom because companies who do lay off employees still need products to be built and they outsource to companies such as CAMtek. She added that when the economic times are good, CAMtek also stays very busy.

Ms. Davis advised that almost all of the revenue made by CAMtek is received from customers outside of Illinois. She indicated that her customer base is Fortune 200 companies all over the nation and globally.

Mr. Gordon asked if CAMtek's focus for new hires is on the local labor market. Ms. Davis responded that the local labor market is her first target for new employees. She noted that current employees are promoted as new employees are hired. She added that she works with quite a few different local groups, including Illinois State University. Ms. Davis pointed out that CAMtek is a high-tech manufacturing company with robotics and programmed equipment. She indicated that this requires employees with a lot of talent, much of which can be learned on the job.

Mr. Soeldner asked if the Enterprise Zone will abate the state sales tax on equipment for improvement to the building. Mr. Springer replied that it will abate the state sales tax on building materials and anything that can be physically incorporated into the site and cannot be removed. Mr. Soeldner asked how much money will be spent on improvements to the building. Ms. Davis replied that the amount has not yet been determined.

Chairman Sorensen called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Ben Owens, Chairman, Chairman, Finance Committee, presented several requests. The first two requests are for Fund 0107 (ARRA Grant) and can be acted upon together. The first is a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (ARRA Grant). The second is a request for approval of a Resolution amending the FY'2010 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2010 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (ARRA Grant). – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Renner to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (ARRA Grant); and Approval of a Resolution Amending the FY'2010 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 2010 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (ARRA Grant) – Health Department.
Motion carried.

Mr. Owens presented two requests to be acted upon together regarding Fund 0107 (H1N1 Grant). The first is a request for approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (H1N1 Grant). The second is a request for approval of a Resolution amending the FY'2010 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2010 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (H1N1 Grant) – Health Department.

Motion by Owens/Gordon to Recommend Approval of an Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2010 Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (H1N1 Grant); and Approval of a Resolution Amending the FY'2010 McLean County Full-Time Equivalent Position Resolution Associated with an Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Year 2010 McLean County Combined Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0107 (H1N1 Grant) – Health Department
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Owens.

Mr. Tari Renner, Chairman, Justice Committee, presented a request for approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Circuit Clerk Court Automation Fund 0140 – Circuit Clerk's Office.

Motion by Renner/Owens to Recommend Approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2009 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance, Circuit Clerk Court Automation Fund 0140 – Circuit Clerk's Office.
Motion carried.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Renner.

Mr. George Gordon, Chairman, Land Use and Development Committee, advised that the Land Use and Development Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

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Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Gordon.

Ms. Diane Bostic, Chairman, Property Committee, advised that the Property Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Bostic.

Mr. Stan Hoselton, Chairman, Transportation Committee, was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Sorensen advised that the Transportation Committee brings no items for action to the Executive Committee.

Chairman Sorensen asked if there were any questions or comments. There were no questions.

Mr. Segobiano asked Mr. Wasson what his reaction was to the seminar provided by Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson on Saturday, January 9th regarding federal grants and the federal grant program. Mr. Wasson advised that the deadline for grant requests received in Congresswoman Halvorson's office have been moved up.

Mr. Wasson stated that Chief Judge Beth Robb is strongly in support of proposing a Mental Health Court grant. He indicated that we are working parallel with the courts on obtaining information to make that proposal.

Mr. Segobiano noted that the seminar provided some good information to help the economy. Mr. Wasson responded that the seminar provided a good picture of grant opportunities, as well as reality with reference to the likelihood of those grants opportunities. He indicated that there were approximately 350 discretionary grant proposals submitted by Congresswoman Halvorson last term and 15 were awarded.

Chairman Sorensen presented the December 31, 2009 bills as recommended and transmitted by the County Auditor for payment, as well as a Veteran's Assistance departmental transfer of \$1,490 from Line-Item No. 0002, Computer CPU to Line-Item No. 0005, Computers. The Fund Total is \$310,423.17 and the Prepaid Total is the same.

Motion by Owens/Renner to recommend approval of the Executive Committee bills for December 31, 2009 and a Veteran's Assistance Departmental Transfer of \$1,490 from Line-Item No. 0002, Computer CPU to Line-Item No. 0005, Computers as presented to the Committee by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary