



MINUTES
St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
Workshop

Board of Commissioners' Room
County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060

January 9, 2025 at 4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Fielitz called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Commissioner Fielitz.

3. Roll Call

Present: Kerry Ange, Lisa Beedon, Robert Fielitz, David Rushing, Joi Torello, Dave Vandebossche

Absent: Steve Simasko

Commissioner Simasko was unable to attend the meeting. Commissioner Fielitz read into the record the following from Commissioner Simasko:

I have been dealing with a serious health issue with one of my daughters that delivered a baby on the 13th of December. She is still at a Hospital in Detroit. Due to circumstances beyond my control I will be with her at the hospital this afternoon and will be unable to attend the workshop today.

As I stated in a previous email, as Board Chair it will be my general practice to give all members of the commission an opportunity to chair county workshops and town hall meetings on a case by case basis. Commissioner Fielitz will chair the workshop this afternoon in his capacity as the chair of the Standing Committee on Community & Economic Development.

I want the board and the public to know that I am not in favor of the county

"defunding" economic development. I view economic development as a valuable and necessary component of county government. Our county currently funds that entity with in excess is \$300,000.00 annually in direct cash dues plus substational in kind services from our metro planning department, county finance department and other in kind services. The citizens of this county are providing half of the revenues for what is a non-governmental agency managed by a private board with no elected official directly responsible to the public.

4. New Business

Moved by Vice-Chairperson Rushing, supported by Commissioner Beedon to switch #4 - Citizens Wishing to Address the Board to #5 and #5 - Overview - Economic Development Alliance - D. Casey & Transparency, Communication and Community Input and Involvement Discussion to #4. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Vice-Chairperson Rushing, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Vandebossche Nay: None

Commissioner Fielitz stated the purpose of the workshop is to determine if St. Clair County should continue to use the services of the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County Corporation and what form should that service look like.

He anticipates three workshops needed.

The three workshops would consist of the following:

1. Any issues or problems with current arrangement
2. Discuss potential ideas or solutions to improve upon arrangement
3. Decide what solutions the Board wants to examine deeper and move to a Board of Commissioner meeting.

A. Overview - Economic Development Alliance - D. Casey

Dan Casey, CEO of Economic Development Alliance (EDA), did a presentation on EDA.

Some key points that were touched on during the presentation included:

- Who is EDA
- EDA Mission Statement
- EDA Vision Statement
- EDA Focus Areas
 - Business Retention & Expansion
 - Attraction of New Investment
 - Community Development
 - Small Business Growth & Development
 - Marketing
 - Workforce Development & Recruitment
 - Community Involvement
- Results
- Stakeholders

- Communications
- Accountability

The EDA is proposing the following changes:

- Memorandum of Understanding
- EDA Board Seats
- Representation on Committees
- BOC Updates
- Non-Disclosure Agreement
- Strongly prefer an NDA protocol vs. no NDA's

There was a question & answer with Commissioners after the presentation.

B. Transparency, Communication and Community Input and Involvement Discussion

Quentin Bishop, City Superintendent for City of St. Clair spoke briefly on the benefits of the EDA.

James Freed, Port Huron City Manager, spoke briefly about the site plan review process and involvement at the local level.

5. Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Bill Wuebber - Jeddo, MI
RE: EDA

Mike Hilferink - Marine City, MI
RE: EDA

Tom Vertin - St. Clair, MI
RE: Importance of NDA's

Anthony Ferriell - St. Clair, MI
RE: Public Transparency & Accountability

Kathy Vertin - St. Clair, MI
RE: Preserve EDA Funding

Liz Masters, Wales, MI
RE: EDA

Patrick Pringle- Port Huron, MI
RE: Support for EDA

Sandra Tannehill - Wales, MI
RE: EDA

Aaron Ladd - Port Huron, MI
RE: EDA

Scott Shigley - Marysville, MI
RE: EDA

Eric Krikorian - Greenwood, MI
RE: EDA

Jill Barto - Clyde, MI
RE: EDA

Angela Defrain - Fort Gratiot, MI
RE: EDA

Dan Turke - China, MI
RE: EDA

Kevin Glass - Wales, MI
RE: EDA

Janis Mueller - Cottrellville, MI
RE: EDA funding

Tyler Meganck - Port Huron, MI
RE: Solar

Randall Fernandez - Marysville, MI
RE: EDA

Chris Barto - North Street, MI
RE: EDA

Shawn Treadaway - St. Clair, MI
RE: EDA

Robert Montgomery - Fort Gratiot, MI
RE: EDA

Sandra Richardson - Fort Gratiot, MI
RE: EDA

Lynn Schroeder - North Street, MI
RE: EDA

Vance Richardson - Fort Gratiot, MI
RE: EDA

Jim Weir - Clyde, MI
RE: EDA

6. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Torello, supported by Vice-Chairperson Rushing, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Carried - Voice Vote 6-0. Aye: Vice-Chairperson Rushing, Commissioner Ange, Commissioner Beedon, Commissioner Torello, Commissioner Fielitz, Commissioner Vandenbossche