

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011

At a meeting of the **Economic Development Committee**, held Thursday, June 16, 2011, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Carabelli-Co-Chair, Flynn-Co-Chair, Gralewski, Miller, Moceri, Sabatini,
Smith, Tocco and Vosburg (ex-officio).

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Fraschetti

There being a quorum of the committee present, Co-Chair Carabelli called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

Co-Chair Carabelli indicated that agenda item #6b (presentation from SMART) was added to the final agenda.

Co-Chair Carabelli moved the order of agenda items #6a through #6d. Item #6b would go first, then #6c, then #6d, and lastly #6a.

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Smith, to adopt the agenda, as amended.
The Motion Carried.

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Sabatini, supported by Smith, to approve the May 19, 2011 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

b) Presentation from SMART

A colored copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed.

John Hertel, General Manager from SMART stated that SMART is the only regional transit system in Southeast Michigan. He gave a detailed background on SMART transportation. He stated that unfortunately, Oakland County and Wayne County allowed numerous communities to opt out of the system. Fortunately, Macomb County decided to do it differently and has a totally inclusive, smooth running, transit system which covers the entire county. He further stated that Macomb County's system has continually risen above the other two counties in ridership. He noted that the people in Macomb County have voted for the SMART Millage continually by a higher margin. Last year 75% voted yes. He further noted that 70% who use SMART are using it to get to work and the other 30% are attempting to get to school or are seniors.

Jim Fetzer, Deputy General Manager of Operations from SMART gave a PowerPoint presentation. Key topics covered included: How We Were Established, Who We Are, Quick Facts, Efficiency and Service.

John Hertel addressed two major issues concerning SMART: 1) They are in a situation which was imposed on them by the legislature and previous Granholm administration whereby when lump sum federal funding is received only 35% goes to SMART and 65% goes to DDOT. He felt those funds should be a 50/50 split. The formula is set up so that when DDOT reduces their services, it reduces the amount the federal government sends. He is requesting that the formula be changed so SMART is not part or tied to DDOT's circumstance and their board is talking about what could be done legislatively about changing it. 2) Over the last 55 years in Southeast Michigan there have been 23 attempts to create a Regional Transit Plan. In 2007, he began the 24th effort and in December of 2008 he put a Regional Transit Plan in front of the Regional Transit Coordinating Council and the Plan was unanimously approved, but has sat since then without implementation. The only way it can get implemented is if a Regional Transit Authority is created. He recalled the Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved the bill that he put forth, as well as L. Brooks Patterson and Robert Ficano; unfortunately, Dave Bing did not support the bill. He stated with the possibility of the continued diminishment of DDOT, there is a real importance of implementing a Regional Transit Plan. He compared Michigan nationally to all of the other transit systems; the people in Southeast Michigan are paying .26 cents versus \$1.00 the taxpayers are paying in 29 other metropolitan areas. He noted for every dollar spent on creating or improving a transit system, the private sector has matched that with an investment of \$6.00. It is a job creating investment and would create a green environment and people would want to come here because of having a modern mass transit system.

The following commissioners spoke: Flynn, Vosburg and Mocerri.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MOCERI, SUPPORTED BY SMITH, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SMART (SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION) AND THEIR EFFORTS IN RESOLVING EMERGING FINANCIAL ISSUES, AS WELL AS CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (**OFFERED BY MOCERI; ADD FLYNN**). FURTHER, A COPY OF THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ACTION IS DIRECTED TO BE DELIVERED FORTHWITH TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The following commissioners spoke: Flynn, Frascchetti and Smith.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Smith, to receive and file the presentation by John Hertel, General Manager and Jim Fetzer, Deputy General Manager of Operations from SMART. **The Motion Carried.**

Without objection, Co-Chair Flynn moved to agenda item #6a.

a) **Presentation from Detroit Regional Chamber**

Ed Wolking, Executive Vice President, Detroit Regional Chamber gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled: Detroit Regional Chamber Economic Development Programs. Key topics covered included: Strategic Priorities (Regional Collaboration, Economic Development and Education Reform), Ten Counties in Southeast Michigan, A More Collaborative Approach, Key Elements of Collaboration, Key Operating Principles, Detroit Regional Chamber New Senior Team Leadership (Ben Erulkar, SVP for Economic Development), Economic Development Portfolio Five Primary Programs, Business Attraction Michigan Functions, Business Attraction Michigan Mission and Objectives, Target Sectors, Results in Macomb County 2000-2011.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Sabatini, to receive and file the presentation by Ed Wolking, Executive Vice President from the Detroit Regional Chamber.

The following commissioners spoke: Vosburg and Flynn.

Co-Chair Flynn called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

- c) Accept Nicholson Nature Center Trust Fund Grant from Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Gerard Santoro from the Planning and Economic Development Department and Lynne Seymour from the Public Works Department were present to answer questions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MOCERI, SUPPORTED BY TOCCO, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY OF MACOMB TO ACCEPT THE NICHOLSON NATURE CENTER TRUST FUND (\$275,000) GRANT FROM THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; \$70,000 (MATCH) FUNDS FROM PHILANTHROPIC DONATION BY JAMES B. AND ANN V. NICHOLSON AND \$205,000 (GRANT) FUNDS GRANTED BY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND. FURTHER, A COPY OF THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ACTION IS DIRECTED TO BE DELIVERED FORTHWITH TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

The following commissioner spoke: Vosburg.

Co-Chair Flynn stepped down from the Chair at 10:43 a.m.

Commissioner Mocerri took the Chair.

Commissioner Mocerri called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

- d) 2011 CDBG Annual Plan and 2011 HOME Annual Plan

Mike Rozny from the Planning and Economic Development Department was present.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GRALEWSKI, SUPPORTED BY SMITH, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN AND SUBMIT TO HUD: 1) THE 2011 CDBG ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE URBAN COUNTY OF MACOMB AND 2) THE 2011 HOME ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE MACOMB HOME CONSORTIUM. FURTHER, A COPY OF THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' ACTION IS DIRECTED TO BE DELIVERED FORTHWITH TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOTION

A motion was made by Gralewski, supported by Smith, to receive and file the update on upcoming events. **The Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Tocco, supported by Gralewski, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter