



Economic Development Committee

215 S. East Street

Carlinville, IL 62626

<http://www.macoupincountyil.gov/>

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

6:00 PM

County Board Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Armour, Starr, Lewis, Reiher, Rull, Schmidt, Vojas, Dragovich, Duncan

ABSENT:

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. 1935 : Enterprise Zone Renewal Application

Armour discussed that the county's enterprise zone was due to expire at the end of 2020 so it would be up to renewal at in 2021. There would need to be a decision about if the county was going to renew the enterprise zone and if so, how. There had been a discussion among the original enterprise zone partners, the County, the City of Carlinville and City of Gillespie with a enterprise zone agency that helps with applications. It was decided to invite all cities and villages to hear the presentation as well as offer input.

The current zone was established in 1991 for a thirty year period that will expire at the end of 2020. The process for getting an enterprise zone application approved has changed dramatically since the zone was originally approved. There was a law change in 2012 that established an entirely new process for getting a designation. The process has gotten much more competitive for the 95 zones that can be established in the state and by the end of this application period, the zone will be maxed out. This team has a 100% success rate so far in getting zones approved so while they can not guarantee approval, they feel good.

The application process is about a 2 year process to get everything prepared, approved and submitted. The applications are due at the end of this year, a review period from January to June and then some public hearings in the summer of next year before the Enterprise Zone Board would make a final decision on who gets approved. They would be involved in every step of the process.

One of the first steps will be doing an analysis of the entire county to see what economic factors in each census tract there are to create the best zone possible on the point basis. They will then come back with an initial recommendation on what the zone looks like. There would be an intergovernmental agreement passed by each unit of local government participating. The next step would be visiting with the business community to show a required part of the application that this zone would bring in \$1,000,000 in investment over 15 years and create

1,000 jobs in that same period. These would need to be written commitments by the business to show they believe they would be able to meet.

There was a discussion about the benefits a business or potential business could get through the enterprise zone. This would include a sales tax exemption on building materials. There is an investment tax credit on qualified investments, a utility tax exemption on gas and electricity passing through a third party vendor. There would also be a real estate property tax abatement approved by units of local governments.

There are two phases to the project in terms of cost. There is a \$60,000 fee for everything up until the Board would decide on final status. If the Board approves the zone, there is an additional \$30,000 for the final approval stages and transition. There was discussion about who would be paying for the application fee and if the county would be paying for it, if the cities and villages would pay for it or would the cost be split.

2. Resolution in Support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau
Armour explained this was a required resolution yearly to continue being a member of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau.

Motion by Starr, seconded by Lewis to recommend the resolution.



January 8, 2019

Board Chairman Mark Dragovich
Macoupin County
215 S. East Street
Carlinville, IL 62626

Dear Boardman Chair Dragovich:

2018 was an incredible year for our region in tourism. We experienced a lot of growth and even some changes of our own! Formerly known as the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau, our official name is now **Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau**.

Our destination continues to attract new visitors and bring in new dollars that are vital for our communities. The Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau takes tourism seriously, working hard to generate new overnight visitation.

In previous years, we received a resolution from you and your community council endorsing the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau (f/k/a Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau) as the state certified bureau for the region of northern Madison County, Jersey County, Calhoun County and Macoupin County.

We are required to submit an application for re-certification annually and must include your resolution. **Please provide us with your resolution by February 22, 2019. If a resolution is not possible by this date, please furnish us with a letter of support for state re-certification.**

Enclosed for your reference is a sample of your past resolution.

All of us with Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau (staff, board of directors and hospitality partners) are committed to creating positive economic impact through tourism. Should you have any questions, please contact us at 465-6676.

Sincerely,

Brett Stawar
President/CEO

**MACOUPIN COUNTY BOARD
RESOLUTION No. 2019.XX**

A Resolution for Support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau

Whereas, the Macoupin County recognizes the need of a professional and comprehensive approach for the marketing and development of tourism in and around Macoupin County and endorses the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau for promotional efforts in representing the Macoupin County tourism area.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Macoupin County endorses and supports the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau as the official State Certified Bureau for the Macoupin County in its tourism representation through Fiscal Year 2020.

SIGNED this 12th day of February, 2019.

Voting Yes: _____

Voting No: _____

Mark Dragovich
Chairman of the Board
Macoupin County, Illinois

Pete Duncan
Clerk
Macoupin County, Illinois

Anne Boehm
Treasurer
Macoupin County, Illinois

Attachment: riverroutes (1932 : Resolution in Support of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau)