

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011**

At a meeting of the **Economic Development Committee**, held Thursday, August 18, 2011, at the Electrical Industry Training Center located at 2277 E. 11 Mile Road in Warren, the following members were present:

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

**Other Commissioners Also Present:**

DiMaria and Sauger.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Co-Chair Flynn called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Sabatini, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include items #6(c) and (d)). **The Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Smith, to approve the July 21, 2011 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

Co-Chair Flynn introduced Congressman Sander Levin and State Representatives Lesia Liss, Anthony Forlini and Marilyn Lane. He noted Congresswoman Candice Miller was not able to attend.

Co-Chair Flynn overviewed the format of this morning's meeting.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- a) Presentation by Jennifer Mefford and Gary Polulak from the Electrical Industry Training Center

A tri-fold brochure was distributed.

Gary Polulak, Training Director at the IBEW-NECA Electrical Industry Training Center in Warren, welcomed all who were in attendance. He runs the day-to-day programs at their 50,000 square foot facility. He spoke about the following key topics: Apprenticeship structure, new apprentices and continuing education, serving 5,700 workers and 200 contractors, privately funded, and their structure having a working wind turbine and solar array.

He gave a PowerPoint slide presentation and covered the following key topics: Our Organizations and Preparing for What Comes Next (Renewable Energy Applications).

Jennifer Mefford continued with the slide presentation and covered the following key topics: Training for the Future, Training for the Future-Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) Partner Advisors, and EVITP Collaboration.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Miller, to receive and file the presentation by Jennifer Mefford and Gary Polulak from the Electrical Industry Training Center.

Commissioner Miller inquired if they also do battery development and training. Jennifer Mefford replied, not for batteries and vehicles themselves.

Board Chair Vosburg asked how many are getting called to use the training they receive. Jennifer Mefford said they have about 250 Volts in the area and receive 10 to 15 inquiries per week. She noted at the launch in 2012 there will be another surge; 45,000 Volts will be in production. Gary Polulak added that they have 250 apprentices and about 15 are working on this type of work.

Co-Chair Flynn recognized Ron Robinson, Oakland University Trustee, who had a couple questions for Jennifer Mefford.

Commissioner DiMaria was curious as to when someone charges their Volt at a place, who pays for the electrical. He then asked how much it costs to charge a Volt at home versus the cost of gasoline. Jennifer Mefford replied, \$1.80 is the evening rate after 11 p.m. and the Volt can be charged in three to four hours which will go 40 miles.

Co-Chair Flynn asked what local government can do to capture some of the federal grants. Jennifer Mefford said it is about awareness and would be open to help host an event in the county. Additionally, she is going to let businesses know that there are some grants available.

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

b) Federal Update on Electric Battery Technology by Congressman Sander Levin

Congressman Sander Levin thanked Co-Chairs Carabelli and Flynn for inviting him to today's meeting. He gave a federal update on advanced battery technology. He spoke about this country being way behind other countries in solar energy, solar panels, and wind turbines. He felt what is at stake is the regeneration of the industrial base in this country and it is tied to green energy. He felt it is essential for Macomb County to play a key part in this transformation. He spoke about defense vehicles that will have to run on electric and that Macomb County is the center of military vehicle technology: meaning, Tacom and Tardec. Additionally, Macomb Community College already plays a key part.

He spoke about the Recovery Act and gave an illustration on how it supported the development of cell technology in the United States. It amounted to over \$2 billion and half of the money went to private enterprises in Michigan.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Mocerri, supported by Miller, to receive and file the federal update on electric battery technology by Congressman Sander Levin.

Co-Chair Flynn asked if federal incentives for solar currently exist. Congressman Levin spoke about current tax incentives, but it still has to be decided if they will continue.

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

- c) Adopt Resolution in Support of the Research and Development of Electric Cars  
(offered by Flynn and Carabelli)

Attached to the final agenda was a copy of the proposed resolution.

### **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 THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC CARS (**OFFERED BY FLYNN AND CARABELLI**). 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.**

- d) Report of Counter Proposal from Clinton-Macomb Public Library by Jill Smith  
(to be forwarded to the Finance Committee)

Attached to the final agenda was a draft Agreement dated August 15, 2011 between Macomb County and the Clinton-Macomb Public Library (CMPL) regarding the Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped @ CMPL.

Jill Smith reported CMPL rejected the proposed new language at the July 28<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting. She further reported that CMPL is willing to make an annual

presentation to the Board regarding the activities of the Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Co-Chairs Carabelli and Flynn asked Jill Smith to add that language in the revised agreement.

Commissioner Miller inquired as to what part of the agreement CMPL balked at. Jill Smith read the revision.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Gralewski, supported by Miller, to receive and file the report of counter proposal from Clinton-Macomb Public Library by Jill Smith. **Forward to the Finance Committee. The Motion Carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Co-Chair Flynn thanked IBEW's staff for hosting today's meeting. He said the Board will work with the County Executive's Office for research and development in Macomb County.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Sabatini, to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

At the conclusion of this committee meeting, a tour of the facility immediately followed.

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**Denise M. Jacks  
Committee Reporter**