
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Committee Minutes

May 12, 2020

10 am to 12 pm

Skype Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Scott Newman Bale
Jeff Noel
Jeff Donofrio
Ryan Waddington
Mike McLauchlan
Fay Beydoun

Tom Lutz
Robert McMahan
Phil Shaltz
Fritz Erickson
Beth Ardisana
April Clobes

Awenate Cobbina
Bobby Hopewell
Bill Pink
Kyle Caldwell
Krista Flynn
Chris MacInnes

Members Absent:

Dave Meador

Sheldon Neeley

Staff Present:

Amiee Evans

Mark Burton

Amanda Bright
McClanahan

Steve Bakkal

Christin Armstrong

Linda Ascitutto

Lynne Feldpausch

Greg Bird

Doug Kuiper

Josh Hundt

Brad Heffner

Jill Trepkoski

Michele Wildman

I. Call to order

Mr. Cobbina called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., a quorum was declared present. The meeting was held virtually via Skype due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Cobbina invited public comment, there was none.

III. Chairman's Report

- a. Mr. Cobbina and Mr. Noel presented the Resolution to acknowledge Jeff Mason's contributions to the MEDC for the past three years. Mr. Cobbina noted that on behalf of the board he wanted to thank Mr. Mason for his dedication and service to the organization and the state. Mr. Noel commented that Mr. Mason was a strong leader that worked hard to shepherd a strategic plan based in reality. He created a value driven culture, he is known for his integrity, values and strong spirit of winning. He leaves the organization with a legacy of caring, as he cared deeply for the people he worked with as well as the people of the

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

state of Michigan. *Mr. Noel moved to adopt the tribute for Jeff mason and Mr. Hopewell supported the motion. The Resolution passed unanimously.*

- b. Mr. Cobbina provided an update on the search process for the Chief Executive Officer. He noted that the environment and the world had changed dramatically since the last meeting. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the Personnel & Compensation subcommittee had decided to delay the search. Following the March meeting, the Personnel & Compensation subcommittee detailed a process to engage a search firm as well as ideal characteristics for a candidate. As we continue to learn more about the new environment post crisis, the Personnel & Compensation subcommittee will continue to revise the needs for a leader of the organization. He noted that he would provide an additional update at the July meeting on the process.
- c. Mr. Cobbina asked if there were any questions, changes, or corrections regarding the March 4, 2020 minutes. There were none. *Mr. Caldwell moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting and Ms. Clobes supported the motion, the motion passed unanimously.*

IV. CEO Update

Mr. Cobbina welcomed Mr. Mark Burton and asked that he provide an update to the Committee. Mr. Burton thanked Mr. Cobbina for the introduction and provided an update on his observations of the organization over the past 60 days. He noted that the organization is very high performing, with a great culture. He has learned that this organization is able to act thoughtfully and quickly in light of recent events. He noted that throughout the crisis the organization has responded yet stayed true to our strategic plan. He also noted that throughout the country, Michigan continues to be a thought leader for best practices, including our COVID-19 response efforts. Where other states have requested information regarding our response efforts to replicate. Mr. Burton detailed the response efforts that the organization has undertaken since the start of the state of emergency was declared in early March. Mr. Burton asked Mr. Bakkal to provide additional framework to how the organization will continue to response to COVID-19 following the crisis stage and how we will assist in the economic recovery efforts within the state. Following the update by Mr. Bakkal, Ms. Bright McClanahan provided an update on the current budget situation, including expected revenue shortages. She provided an update to the operational changes that the organization has undergone to determine budget priorities for the remainder of the fiscal year. She noted that the organization is focused on staffing, programming, and marketing as the three key budget priorities. Following those updates, Mr. Burton noted that the organization continues to look for support from the Committee to advocate for the stabilization of funding, renewal of Good Jobs for Michigan, and funding for the Pure

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Michigan program. He noted that we will follow up with additional information for assistance in advocating in these areas.

V. Resolution to Approve the Budget Time Schedule

Ms. Beth Ardisana on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee noted that the Finance subcommittee would continue to work with staff to determine budget priorities and would continue to assess and determine best uses for funds and identification of all revenue sources. She noted as the landscape is still currently changing, there is a need to update the previously presented budget timeline to allow additional time for staff to reprioritize. Due to these changes an updated expected Committee budget approval for fiscal year 2021 would be recommended on September 8. *Ms. MacInnes moved to approve the schedule and Ms. Flynn supported the Resolution. The Resolution passed unanimously.*

- VI.** Mr. Cobbina asked if there was any additional discussion for the Executive Committee. Being none, he asked for the meeting to be adjourned. *Mr. Noel moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ardisana. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.*