

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Clinton County Board Room
February 6, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

MIKE RAKERS, Chairman

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman, Mike Rakers.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Committee Members Present: Mike Rakers, Holly Clark, Greg Riechman and Ann Schroeder
Also Present: Brad Knolhoff and Mike Kuhl

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sandy Timmermann and Cheryl Brinkmann

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

N/A

5. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

6. NEW BUSINESS

Aviston/Sursee Power Line: Mike Kuhl is at tonight's meeting because he has attended most of the Aviston/Sursee Power Line meetings. The Clinton County Board has been asked to write a resolution opposing the line but not a lot of information has been provided. Mike K said that a group of landowners south of Highland have formed an LLC and have hired an attorney to fight the line. Brad Knolhoff added that it will be the Commerce Commission's ultimate decision on the matter. Opposing one particular line would only move the proposed line from one county resident's property to another. It has been decided not to prepare a resolution at this time; not until more information is provided.

Broadband: Cheryl Brinkmann, our Clinton County Broadband rep, reported that a webinar was hosted by the Illinois Office of Broadband/Illinois Broadband Lab on 2/3/2023. One Billion in Federal money has been promised to Illinois for Broadband Access Equity Deployment (BEAD) grants. A 5-year action plan is due 8/2023. Digital Equity (DE) planning grants will be due by 12/2023. Illinois Broadband Lab would serve as coordinator for the state-wide grants. Cheryl said they have conducted surveys, interviewed potential providers, and worked with neighboring counties to see continuity with service. She said they are

waiting for the release of plans. Cheryl is registered for the next webinar on Digital Equity on 2/09/2023.

Motion was made by Greg Riechman to keep Cheryl Brinkmann on as Clinton County's broadband rep for 2023 and cap her annual stipend at \$3,000. Cheryl will receive \$50/meeting and will be reimbursed for hotel & mileage when necessary. Holly Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tourism: Sandy Timmermann distributed Clinton County Tourism rack cards and new Visitor Guides for Discover Downstate Illinois, formerly known as ILLINOISouth Tourism. She explained there's a hotel/motel tax collected in Clinton County, used to promote overnight stays in the county.

There is also a Clinton County Tourism website (VisitClintonCounty.com) and a Facebook page (Clinton County Tourism). Acorn Internet Services has been managing the website and posting a monthly blog and Pinterest post. Clinton County Tourism sponsors 3-4 fishing tournaments a year, along with other events promoting the county. She said the tourism website needs to be updated, and new rack cards and yard signs are needed.

Motion was made by Ann Schroeder and seconded by Holly Clark to pay \$125 to Acorn Internet to update the website, \$135 to Analytic GA4, \$240 for signs (20 @ \$12 each); and to order rack cards with the new Logo for \$1,478.00 (20,000 cards). Money will come from the hotel/motel tax funds. Motion carried.

6. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Ann Schroeder, seconded by Greg Riechman. Motion carried.