

**COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elizabeth Flowers at 5:31 p.m.

**Roll Call**

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>	<b>Left Meeting</b>
Elizabeth Flowers	Here		
Scott Gengler	Here		
Dan Koukol	Here		
Brooke Shanley	Here		
Seth Wormley	Here		

**With five (5) members present a quorum was established.**

**Staff Present:** Christina Burns, Taylor Cosgrove, Roger Bonuchi, Todd Volker, Matt Asselmeier

**Approval of Agenda** – Member Shanley made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Koukol. **With five (5) members voting aye, the motion was carried by a vote of 5 - 0.**

**Approval of Minutes** – Member Gengler made a motion to approve the June 25, 2024 Committee Meeting minutes, second by Member Wormley. **With five (5) members voting aye, the motion was carried by a vote of 5 - 0.**

**Committee Reports and Updates**

- A. Animal Control Department Update** – Director of Animal Control Taylor Cosgrove briefed the committee on the monthly bite report starting on page 6 in the packet. Animal Control has spent time on three serious bite investigations in June, all three investigations are complete. She also reported another severe bite that just occurred this week which they are currently investigating. The length of stay has increased, and at this time the facility is very full for both cats and dogs. The comparison statistic report shows they had eleven dogs that were confiscated, but Ms. Cosgrove explained that this number included a mother dog with eight puppies. A question was asked about owner surrenders and if they charge the owner? Ms. Cosgrove stated AC can charge a \$50.00 fee and they will always ask for additional donations, especially if the animal has not altered or has not kept up with vaccinations to help recover some of these costs.
- B. Emergency Management Agency Update** – Director of Emergency Management Roger Bonuchi gave an update to the committee regarding EMA’s very busy week with two nights of storms and reported tornados. There was widespread storm damage, and they are still assessing the extent of that damage. Mr. Bonuchi stated that damage was not as severe as in other counties and no damage to medical facilities or other essential services. The Kendall County Emergency Management report for June can be found on page 16 of the packet.
- C. Revolving Loan Status Update** – County Administrator Christina Burns directed the committee to the RLS report on page 17 of the packet. She indicated that there had been no significant updates since the last committee meeting on these loans.

- D. Economic Development Update-** Economic Development Coordinator Todd Volker briefed the committee on a request that he received late last week to help plan an agricultural/business tour for a 30 -35 person delegation from Brazil. With short notice Mr. Volker pulled together a tour that will include visiting; The GRID manufacturing facility, tour of Bob Stewart's large farming operation with welcoming remarks by Chairman Matt Kellogg, and tour of CHS, Inc. Grain Terminal. The Newark FFA will host a lunch fundraiser and a discussion on agricultural education. They will end the tour at the Gilded Edge Winery a boutique winemaker and agritourism destination in Newark. Included in the packet (page 18) is Economic Development July monthly report.
- E. KAT Update** – County Administrator Christina Burns directed the committee to page 20 of the packet for the ride data report for the month of May. Christina Burns thanked Jennifer Karales for her work with the KAT program, for the grant process and her PCOMM role.

### **New Committee Business**

**A.\*MOTION (Forward to County Board):** Discussion and Approval of Cable Television Franchise Agreement by and between County of Kendall and Comcast of Illinois XIII, L.P.

County Administrator Christina Burns stated that the County's current franchise agreement with Comcast expires in October. Comcast is requesting the County enter into a new five-year agreement. The agreement is substantially similar to the one currently in place. Comcast will continue to pay a franchise fee equal to 5% of annual gross revenues, which is the limit provided for in the Cable Act.

Member Gengler made a motion for Approval of Cable Television Franchise Agreement by and between County of Kendall and Comcast of Illinois XIII, L.P. to be forwarded to County Board meeting, second by Member Koukol. **With five (5) members voting aye, the motion was carried by a vote of 5 - 0.**

### **Old Committee Business**

#### **A. Discussion of Economic Development Priorities**

County Administrator Christina Burns stated that the need for this discussion is to determine what outcomes the committee would like to see from Economic Development. The need is to set priorities, goals and budget for the coming year along with what types of projects Economic Development Coordinator Todd Volker should put time and effort into. Ms. Burns asks that they also think about what long-term visions the committee has for the County. Mr. Todd Volker went through a summary of the Economic Environment Scan document that was shared at the last committee meeting. The mission of economic development is to produce a better life for Kendall County residents; to include better economy, better quality businesses, create opportunities for jobs, support the development plans/goals of the County's municipalities and to ultimately work to lower taxes. Mr. Volker gave a quick demographic overview. The County is anticipated to grow 9.5% in the next five years, with a current population of 139,976. Personal income is 12<sup>th</sup> highest in Illinois, labor participation of 72.3% (higher than peers), and poverty level at 9.2%. Kendall County agriculture accounted for 14.8 % of county GPD, with 383 farms and 129K acres in production. The business count in the County is estimated at 2200 businesses. Manufacturing and mining/quarrying jobs are some of the highest paid jobs in the County. Current trends is strong in retail employment and demand for warehouse/distribution centers, and data centers. He discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the County and the ideas for Kendall County's economic future. After the presentation Ms. Burns facilitated a discussion and feedback of the data presented and where priorities should be. The committee discussed road corridors and transportation limitations (rail and public transport). Corridors that have potential for growth include Orchard Rd, Ridge Road, Hwy 47 and Eldamain Rd. Committee members would like to see money going into corridor/road studies to help businesses make informed decisions. Ms. Burns stated that GCEP is an incredible tool for these business specific studies and the County does have access to this data that they has already collected. She said that at the last meeting one idea was to use the revolving loan fund to update the Land Resource Management Plan. The committee mentioned that they would like to see focus on these areas; environmental manufacturing, workforce development, small module reactors (SMRs) for clean and sustainable energy. Discussion continued regarding retail development and supporting the municipalities that can bring these businesses into the County. Kendall County should continue to build an intergovernmental system between the municipalities and the County to bolster community and get support bringing businesses into the county.

The committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding business incentives and tax abatement guidelines in Kendall County. Ms. Burns indicated that they will present to the committee at a future meeting the economic development vision, a priority list for the next 3 to 5 years, and next year's priorities, all informed by today's discussions. Ms. Burns expressed appreciation to Mr. Volker for his contributions to the environmental scan and the BTEch tour.

**B. Discussion of Revolving Loan Fund Program**

County Administrator Christina Burns led the discussion on the Revolving Loan Fund Program. Ms. Burns asked if they had any new ideas to be added as revisions are being made to this document. Last meeting it was discussed that the Revolving Loan fund would still be available for small businesses, focus on corridor studies or the LRMP, and municipal support program similar to what was given to Minooka to support their project. The draft application is more robust than what was used previously, this will give greater details to the application process. Ms. Flowers would like to see if RLF could be used for branding for Kendall County. Ms. Burns said staff will continue to work on the document and will bring it back to a future committee meeting.

**Chairman's Report** – None

**Public Comment** – None

**Executive Session** – None

**Items for the Committee of the Whole Meeting** – None

**Action Items for County Board** -

- Approval of Cable Television Franchise Agreement by and between County of Kendall and Comcast of Illinois XIII, L.P.

**Adjournment** – Member Gengler made a motion to adjourn, second by Member Wormley. **With five (5) members present in agreement; the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally A. Seeger  
Administrative Assistant