



MINUTES
EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Sam Agnello; Ray Coombs, Jr.; Tony Cronin; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Travis Monroe; *Tina Rice (Alt)*; Michael Phelps; Patrick Reuss; Caleb Roseme; Darlene Serra; Jim Butler; John Murphy; Kelli Vallieres; Carlee Drummer; Lisa Arends; Nancy Cowser; & Jessica Corneau.

Staff Present: John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: Ayanti Grant, Denise Collins, Andrea Messenger, Bibi Amin, Cyndi Wells, Gumwatty Garcia, Dan Urtz, CT Sen. Cathy Osten (*CT 19th Dist.*), CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman (*CT 37th Dist.*), CT Rep. Brian Lanoue (*CT 45th Dist.*), Jody Lefkowicz, Lyn Lawrence, & Milt Stretton.

Call to Order

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. & welcomed Travis Monroe, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital's Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations to the Board. He also welcomed CT Sen. Cathy Osten (*CT 19th Dist.*), CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman (*37th Dist.*), CT Rep. Brian Lanoue (*CT 45th Dist.*), & Ayanti Grant representing U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's (*2nd Dist.*) office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the January 29, 2019 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*MURPHY/REUSS*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Electric Boat Contract** – The Board will be asked to act on a resolution later in the agenda authorizing EWIB President/CEO Beauregard to enter into an agreement with General Dynamics/Electric Boat Division as the “*prime contractor*” for workforce development with Electric Boat. The contract provides funding to continue the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) for another eight (8) years and is part of the company's grant with CT Dept. of Economic & Community Development.
2. **Youth Manufacturing Career Event** – Chairman Jewell noted that the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce is planning a Youth Career Fair on May 3rd at the Norwich Holiday Inn that focuses on high school juniors & seniors interested in a manufacturing career. EWIB is partnering with the Chamber, seCTer, & EAMA on the event.
3. **Acknowledgements** – Mr. Beauregard expressed the Board's appreciation to: Rep. Cheeseman for adding a link to the MPI portal on her website; the Chamber of Commerce of E/CT for their \$5,000

donation towards this year's Summer Youth Employment Program; and Board member Ray Coombs for his letter supporting Plainfield High School's participation in the Youth MPI (YMPI).

4. **Casino Impact Discussion** – Chairman Jewell shared that Sen. Osten invited him, Mr. Beauregard, & seCTer to participate in a meeting with Gov. Lamont to discuss potential negative impacts to Eastern CT if a 3rd casino is approved in Bridgeport, CT. The group informed the Governor that our region's impact from the 2008 recession lasted 60-months longer than the rest of the state, and while our economic progress in the past few years has been strong, that might be jeopardized by this third casino.
5. **General Dynamics Supplier Days** – Chairman Jewell reported that Mr. Beauregard participated in a panel discussion on workforce development at General Dynamics' supplier conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of February. The panel highlighted what EWIB has done with the MPI program to ~400 suppliers from all over the country.
6. **CHEFA Grant Award** – The CT Workforce Development Council (CWDC), comprised of CT's five Workforce Boards, was recently awarded \$500K from CT Health & Educational Facilities (CHEFA). Each of the state's five Workforce Boards will receive \$100,000 to be used for job training & support services to serve low-income individuals with significant barriers to employment. Each Board will have an opportunity for additional funding.

CETC REPORT

No report.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **2018/2019 Goals Review** – Mr. Hill shared that the organization has made substantial progress on its Operating Goals for this program year, which will end on June 30. He listed the goals and progress:
 1. **Deliver Contractual Commitments**: Mr. Hill shared the results of the MPI in which actual performance has exceeded the goals in job placements, enrollments, training, and other metrics.
 2. **Expand the MPI Geographically**: Another Workforce Board, Workforce Alliance in New Haven, has successfully graduated their first MPI training class. EWIB has worked to support their progress.
 3. **Secure Federal Extension for Federal Health Profession Opportunity Grant**: An extension for Year 4 of the grant was secured last September and the feedback of the program remains strong.
 4. **Leverage the AJCs as a Talent Pipeline**: He reported the strong number of MPI applicants have mainly been sourced by the AJCs and commended the AJC team for their work with clients.
 5. **Integrate Youth into Talent Pipeline**: Fourteen (14) schools have expressed interest in the YMPI program, substantially more than anticipated upon the program's start.
 6. **Sound Financial Management**: EWIB has successfully diversified its revenues, under spent its' operating budget, and received a "clean" designation from external auditors.
 7. **Issue Economic & Workforce Trends**: Staff routinely provides updates on the economic outlook for the region during the year, resulting in media reports and citations.
- **Linking EWIB System to Regional Economic Data** – Mr. Beauregard provided an economic overview for jobs, the manufacturing sector, housing prices, and personal income.
 1. The state recently did a dramatic revision and lowering of its job gains from 19,900 to 10,000 for 2018. Revisions are necessary because original numbers are estimates, which then get revised by the inclusion of actual payroll data.
 2. Mr. Beauregard provided jobs information in the region. He noted that since 2015, every town in the 41-town area showed more people working by the end of 2018. In addition, the region has added 2,840 jobs during that time, led by the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing jobs grew 11.3% during this time period, *vs.* 4.4% in the country and 2.6% in the state. He commented that this was the reason the Pipeline program was focused initially on manufacturing.
 3. The positive economic job trends in the region has resulted in strong home value appreciations as well. In the past year, Windham County homes have appreciated by 6.9%, the best in the state. New London County home values have increased a solid 4.1%.
 4. The positive direction of the regional economy has resulted in above average gains in personal income. Since 2015, personal income has grown 5.3% in the region *vs.* a statewide increase of 4.8% according to an economic analysis recently commissioned by EWIB.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

▪ Performance, Accountability, & Planning (PAP) Committee

- Healthcare Pipeline Sub-Committee – Sub-Committee Chairman Drummer provided an update to the Board that a pilot of the Healthcare Pipeline began on Mar. 21st with a goal of mirroring the Soft Skills component of the Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) “Bootcamp.” A Healthcare Conference, “Planning for the Future ~ Building Eastern CT’s Healthcare Talent Pipeline,” is being planned for the fall, and will include several speakers and an interactive session on “Best Practices for Workforce Development in Healthcare.” EWIB worked with CTDOL on the State’s resubmission of the statewide Opioid grant; no decision has been announced to-date. Staff is preparing the semi-annual report for Year-4, as well as Year-5 grant submission for the federal HPOG grant.
- Manufacturing Pipeline Sub-Committee – Sub-Committee Chairman Murphy provided an update on the group’s performance & funding, noting that EWIB’s Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) independent, third-party evaluators, PPA, is compiling their final report for federal officials. Feedback to-date has been positive, so we anticipate the report to be supportive of our efforts. He noted that a record six (6) MPI training classes launched in January and expressed his appreciation to all of the partner staff for their efforts to achieve this milestone. Two funding applications are currently pending: \$4M Apprenticeship CT Initiative (ACI), and the \$200K Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA); both of which we anticipate being awarded before the May Board meeting. Mr. Beauregard commented that he called CTDOL Commissioner Westby to see when a decision will be announced on the Apprenticeship CT Initiative (ACI) grant. The Commissioner said information should be released soon on the status of the grant.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of Board Resolution EWIB-19-02 – A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolution EWIB-19-02, as presented (**BUTLER/CRONIN**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (**BUTLER/MURPHY**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board Secretary James S. Butler by Executive Assistant, Sheila R. Taurianen.