



MINUTES
EWIB VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Ray Coombs, Jr.; Shannon Flanagan; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Andrew McKillop; Courtney Murphy; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; Chris Bachant; Bill Louis; Pat Feeney; Deborah Monahan; Mary Ellen Jukoski; Marcy Reed; Jessica Corneau; Linda Ladas; & Jim Butler.

Staff Present: Mark Hill, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: CT Rep. Kevin Ryan, Denise Collins, Bibi Amin; CT Sen Cathy Osten, First Selectman Kevin Cunningham, Rep. Tammy Nuccio, Denise Spellman, Betti Kuszaji, Cyndi Wells, Ayanti Grant, Dana Bennett, Susan Kocaba, CT Rep. Kathleen McCarty, Andrea Messenger Wright, Carol Williams, Mayor Mike Passero, Lyn Lawrence, CT Rep. Susan Johnson, Jody Lefkowicz, & Dana Bennett.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed Ayanti Grant (*U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's Office – CT 2nd Dist.*), Sen. Cathy Osten (*CT 19th Dist.*), Rep. Susan Johnson (*CT 49th Dist.*), Rep. Kathleen McCarty (*CT 38th Dist.*), Rep. Tammy Nuccio (*CT 53rd Dist.*), Rep. Kevin Ryan (*CT 139th Dist.*), Mayor Kevin Cunningham (*Plainfield*), Mayor Mike Passero (*New London*), & Dr. Carol Williams (*Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation*) to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes from the November 23, 2021 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*REED/BUTLER*). **ACTION:** Unanimously Approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Covered under Chairman/Presidents Report.

CETC/GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT

EWIB President Hill reported that the Council will meet on Feb. 10, 2022, and that meeting is open to the public.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Hill reviewed several items of correspondence with the Council to highlight the strong community support and brand awareness of EWIB's workforce programs. Those items included 1) a visit from U.S. Rep. Courtney and subsequent press release labelling the MPI as a "blockbuster success"; 2) a visit to the region from U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona to review the MPI and YMPI programs, which he then advocated for the expansion of these programs nationwide; 3) a meeting between EWIB leadership and the region's state legislators, who pledged their support to continue these programs; 4) a press release from Governor Lamont to the launch of the CareerConneCT initiative, which expands the MPI demand-driven workforce program to other regions and sectors across the state; and 5) strong advocacy from Electric Boat leadership to the MPI as a "secret weapon critical to our success" at its annual legislative update.

Mr. Hill also commended EWIB staff for working on four funding pursuits simultaneously, with applications due in the next month.

- **EWIB FY21 Audit** – Mr. Saporito provided the Board with an overview of the Independent Auditor's Report and accompanying financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The opinion rendered by the Auditors contained no findings and expressed their overall satisfaction with the organization's financials, as evident in their opinion. He noted that the Board's Revenue, assisted by pandemic related funding came in at \$10.28M (*57% federal, 38.5% State, & 4.5% Private*). He commended all those involved in ensuring our sound internal system seamlessly negotiating the dramatic increase in the volume of disbursements.

COMMITTEE REPORT

- **Executive Committee Report** – Previously covered under the Chairman/Presidents Report section.
 - **EWIB FY21 Audit** – A **MOTION** was made to accept the EWIB FY21 Independent Auditor's Report, as presented (*MONAHAN/HUTCHINS*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Jewell informed the Board that Tony Cronin has resigned from the Board as a result of his Dec. 31, 2021 retirement from Charter Oak Federal Credit Union.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

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