



## MINUTES EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020  
8:00 A.M.

- Members Present:** Sam Agnello; Ray Coombs, Jr.; Tony Cronin; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Deborah Monahan; Courtney Murphy; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Darlene Serra; Jim Butler; Lisa D'Abrosca; Patricia Feeney; Kelli Vallieres; *Rose Ellis*; Marcy Reed; Linda Ladas; Nancy Cowser; & Jessica Corneau.
- Staff Present:** John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.
- Others Present:** CT Rep. Holly Cheeseman (*37<sup>th</sup> Dist.*), Kevin Cunningham, Ayanti Grant, Denise Collins, Lyn Lawrence, Cyndi Wells, Stephanie Jones, Gumwatty Garcia, Bibi Amin, Denise Spellman, Carol Williams, & Jody Lefkowitz.

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### Call to Order

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. He welcomed Rep. Cheeseman (*CT 37<sup>th</sup> Dist.*), First Selectman Kevin Cunningham (*Town of Plainfield*), & Dr. Carol Williams (*Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation*).

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rep. Cheeseman stated that marijuana legislation is being taken up during the next Legislative Session. She noted the impact that approval of the proposed legislation would have to the workforce and requested that businesses make their voices heard on the subject.

### ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2019 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*Butler/Cronin*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

### CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Season's Magazine Article – “*Making Things Right*” featured in the Oct. 2019 edition provides an overview of the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) and several first-person accounts of the impact the program has had on them.
- 2) Congressional Record – Remarks on the legacy long-time EWIB Board Member Mel Olsson was read into the Congressional Record (*the day-by-day of what goes on in the House & Senate floor*) by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (*CT 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.*).
- 3) USDOL eNewsletter – The Department's weekly e-publication Workforce GPS, published a piece, “*Models on Work-based Learning and Business Services*,” on Dec. 10, 2019 that features EWIB's Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline as the first of two national models for work-based learning. A link to the MPI video was also included.

- 4) **Hartford Business Journal Article** – The Dec. 9, 2019 article reports on the State’s upcoming Apprenticeship CT Initiative (ACI) grant procurement (*this round is \$10M of the \$50M total approved funding*). The article notes, “...*Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board’s (EWIB)...Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative, which is considered an industry gold standard.*”
- 5) **Plastics Program – The Day** article, “*Region to get plastics manufacturing training program,*” dated: Nov. 30, 2019, informs readers of a Plastics workforce program, the newest addition to the MPI offering. The 10-week program will begin in late January and represents a partnership between the Eastern and South-Central regions.

## **CETC/GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT**

In EWIB Rep. Kelli Vallieres absence, Chairman Jewell reported that the Governor’s Workforce Council held focus group discussions in December to gather information on the state of each focus sector, workforce demand & supply, best practices, and brainstorm ideas to address needs. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- EWIB Chief Financial & Administrative Office (CFAO) Guy Saporito, Jr. provided a financial overview for the Board. He reported that EWIB’s annual Audit revealed no findings or material weaknesses. He added that the Executive Committee reviewed the document at the recommendation of the Audit Sub-Committee and unanimously moved to forward to the Board with their recommendation for approval. The Board’s revenue sources for the period ending 6/30/19 were reviewed noting that a decline was experienced from federal resources (*-\$1.8M*), while both private (*+141K*) and state (*+1.2M*) resources increased. This resulted in an anticipated 4.9% decline (*-\$480K*) in revenues.
- Mr. Saporito also reported that there were more than 1,600 job placements produced by the various EWIB programs during the program year (*period ending 6/30/19*), which resulted in ~\$41.94 million in wages.
- Mr. Beauregard shared that EWIB will be submitting its Apprenticeship CT Initiative (ACI) grant application, due Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. The application will request funding to sustain and expand the MPI (*youth and adult*) as well as add a Healthcare Pipeline in concert with the New Haven region. The proposal was supported by letters from 47 employers and stakeholders throughout Eastern and South-Central CT.
- Mr. Hill announced that the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation will provide \$300,000 (*\$100K over 3 years*) to the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (YMPI), a program to support high school graduates who are intent on entering the workforce. He added that the Foundation has contributed a total of \$971,000+ to EWIB to-date, and thanked Dr. Carol Williams, a member of the Foundation’s Board, for their continued support & generosity.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Executive Committee** – Chairman Jewell reported that the Committee met on Jan. 17, 2020 where they were updated on the status of EWIB’s Youth and Manufacturing Pipeline Initiatives (YMPI/MPI), as well as the Apprenticeship CT Initiative Round II grant application. The group was also informed of the \$300,000 donation from the Ossen Family Foundation.

The Committee unanimously voted to no longer administer the EWIB-Pitre Scholarship (*balance was ~\$77,300 on 12/31/19*). Staff has since attended a meeting with former Board member Armelde Pitre & the Community Foundation of Eastern CT to discuss a divestiture of assets.

Mr. Saporito reviewed EWIB’s annual Independent Auditor’s Report by Doherty, Beals, & Banks, P.C. which contained no findings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Approval was given to transfer \$100,000 from EWIB’s unrestricted assets to the Charles Schwab-General Fund account to improve financial returns on those funds.

Chairman Jewell informed the Board that an offer of the EWIB President/CEO position was made to Mr. Mark Hill, effective July 1, 2020, and was accepted.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the Jan. 17, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes, including approval of EWIB’s Audit for the fiscal year ending 6/30/19, divestiture of the Pitre Scholarship, and

EWIB President/CEO position offer to Mark Hill (*effective 7/1/2020*); as presented (*MONAHAN/COWSER*).  
**ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Jewell informed the Board that EWIB President/CEO John Beauregard will be U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney's (*CT 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.*) guest at the State of the Union Address in Washington, D.C. on February 4, 2020. Ayanti Grant, Cong. Courtney's District Director, added that this is an opportunity to have EWIB's work highlighted on a national scale. Mr. Beauregard added that he has several meetings scheduled during his time in Washington, D.C.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

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