



MINUTES
EWIB VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Ray Coombs, Jr.; Tony Cronin; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Deborah Monahan; Travis Monroe; Courtney Murphy; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; Darlene Serra; Jeff Beadle; Jim Butler; Patricia Feeney; Kelli Vallieres; Mary Ellen Jukoski; Marcy Reed; Linda Ladas; Jessica Corneau; & Nancy Cowser.

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

Others Present: Denise Collins, Kevin Cunningham, Carol Williams, Cyndi Wells, Eric Trott, Jody Lefkowitz, Velma Williams, & CT Rep. Kevin Ryan (*139th Dist.*).

Call to Order

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. He welcomed Bill Louis (*MDA/UAW Local 571 President*) and Chris Bachant (*NSRCC Carpenters Local 326 President*) as new members to the Board and announced the resignation of Sam Agnello.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2020 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*Butler/Jukoski*). **ACTION:** Approved, with Vallieres abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Re-Opening American Job Centers (AJCs)** – *The Day* reported on correspondence that was sent by the southeastern CT legislative delegation to Gov. Lamont requesting that the AJCs be reopened.
- 2) **CARES Act Funding** – EWIB submitted three proposals – Manufacturing, Healthcare, & other sectors - to the CT Governor's Workforce Council (*GWC*) Workforce Training Innovation Fund program. The program is funded by the federal CARES Act. A letter was subsequently received from DECD informing the Board that the proposals were accepted.

CETC/GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Kelli Vallieres, Vice Chair of the Governor's Workforce Council (*GWC*), shared the Council's priorities: business leadership, career building, workforce participation, and data-driven management. She also shared that the State launched *SkillUp CT* online training program in May, modeled after EWIB's Metrix training. Through August, the program has resulted in 17,738 Registrations. The next GWC meeting will be held October 8, 2020.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

– Program Update Presentation

- A) Mr. Hill thanked the Board Executive Committee and the CEO Council for holding meetings in the summer which resulted in the approval of the EWIB budget and the acceptance of funding for EWIB programs, including CARES funding approved by the CEO Council at the August meeting.
- B) Mr. Hill stated that CTDOL has given direction to re-open the American Job Centers (AJCs) on October 19. Center staff will be able to see in-person clients on a limited, appointment only basis that adheres to state guidelines starting on that date.
- C) He noted the rise in the number of unemployed in the region. According to DOL statistics, the number of the unemployed roughly tripled from March thru July. Mr. Hill stated that staff will continue to monitor this situation. To address the situation, Mr. Hill mentioned that EWIB and employers have implemented training programs in new jobs (*Pharmacy Technician for Healthcare, Planning & Plastics in Manufacturing*) and launched On-the-Job Training programs as a means to support hiring (*resulted in 14 hires in the past two weeks in manufacturing*).
- D) Mr. Hill presented that EWIB has \$17.275 million in available revenues for its programs (*as of September*), including the CARES funding. He also recognized various philanthropic organizations for their contributions to EWIB youth programs (*Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, Gawlicki Family Foundation, People's United Community Foundation, Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation, Community Foundation of E/CT, Chamber of Commerce of E/CT, Dime Bank Foundation, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Eastern Savings Bank Foundation, and Pfizer Community Grants*).
- E) Mr. Hill reviewed the 2020-2024 EWIB WIOA Local Plan, which is focused to four goals: 1) prioritize long-term growth sectors, 2) practice demand-driven workforce development, 3) continued development of the talent pipeline; and 4) expand access to workforce services. The document is due to be submitted to the State in October.
- F) Chairman Jewell displayed a trophy from the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) for "Outstanding Achievement in Partnership Award" for the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) that he and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney accepted on behalf of EWIB on June 29. NAWB represents 550 workforce boards across the country.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

– Executive Committee Report

Chairman Jewell reported that the Committee met on June 23 to review EWIB staff performance for FY20, the EWIB Cost Allocation Plan, and the budget and revenues for both FY20 and FY21. He noted that the Committee approved all items, including the FY21 budget and revenues for EWIB.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the June 23, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Report, including the FY21 EWIB Budget, as presented (**Jukoski/Butler**). **ACTION:** Approved, with Vallieres abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- The resolution authorizes the submission of Eastern CT's comprehensive four-year WIOA Plan (2020-2024) to the Governor, in partnership with the Eastern CT Workforce Council of Chief Elected Officials. A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Resolution EWIB-20-01, as presented (**Monahan/Cronin**). **ACTION:** Approved, with Vallieres abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (**Jukoski/Butler**). **ACTION:** Approved, with Vallieres abstaining.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

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