



MINUTES
EWIB VIRTUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Ray Coombs, Jr.; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Chris Jewell; Michael O'Connor; Michael Phelps; Caleb Roseme; Chris Bachant; Jeff Beadle; Pat Feeney; Deborah Monahan; Kelli Vallieres; Marcy Reed; Jessica Corneau; Linda Ladas; Paul Whitescarver; & Jim Butler.

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

Others Present: Sarah Jakub, CT Sen Cathy Osten, Rep. Holly Cheeseman, CT Rep. Mike France, CT Rep. Susan Johnson, Mayor Peter Nystrom, Denise Spellman, Denise Collins, Bibi Amin; M. Kordowski, Karen Hynick, Andrea Messenger Wright, Jody Lefkowicz, & Susan Kocaba.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed Capt. Paul Whitescarver (*USN Ret.*), seCTer Executive Director as a new member of the Board. He thanked Sen. Cathy Osten (*19th Dist.*), Rep. Holly Cheeseman (*37th Dist.*), Rep. Mike France (*42nd Dist.*), Rep. Susan Johnson (*49th Dist.*), Mayor Peter Nystrom (*City of Norwich*), & Sarah Jakub (*Ossen Foundation*) for attending today's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes from the January 25, 2022 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*MONAHAN/BUTLER*). **ACTION:** Approved, with Vallieres abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

Covered under Chairman/Presidents Report.

CETC/GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Kelli Vallieres, Governor's Workforce Council Executive Director & CT Chief Workforce Officer, reported that funding for the CareerConneCT initiative, which expands EWIB's Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) statewide, was approved and her staff were in the process of reviewing 57 applications. She noted that the Governor has proposed other initiatives for CareerConneCT utilizing ARPA funding, including to expand EWIB's Youth MPI (*YMPI*) program statewide, among others.

Sarah Jakub, Executive Director of the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, requested a meeting with Dr. Vallieres to discuss a possible connection between her foundation and Career ConneCT.

The Office of Workforce Solutions (OWS) submitted a \$25 million application for the Economic Development Agency's Good Jobs Challenge. If approved, the funding would be utilized to support the Regional Sector Partnerships to support job training. A decision is expected in July.

Ms. Monahan noted the desperate need for childcare funding. Several Board members and legislators commented in agreement.

Due to prior commitments, Dr. Vallieres left the meeting and did not return.

CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Correspondence/Events – Mr. Hill reviewed two recent events with the Board which included a social media post by the Tolland Chamber of Commerce on the recent visit by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney (CT-2) where EWIB and the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) was praised. He also reported on the tour at the Three Rivers Community College Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center by RADM Richard Seif of the Naval Undersea Warfighting Development Center, and Terrence Cheng, President of CT State Colleges & Universities where they learned about EWIB's MPI, and witnessed several classes in action, which was organized by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney. The tour was very well received.
- Funding Update – EWIB has been awarded a 1-year \$5M contract with the CT OWS as part of the CareerConneCT initiative, to expand the MPI program statewide which would include creating a statewide online portal for jobseekers to enroll in training programs, provide consultative services to guide the expansion, as well as to increase training capacity in the eastern and other regions. The Board also submitted and/or supported four other grant applications: a) MPI expansion through CareerConneCT for years 2 - 4 (EWIB lead applicant), b) a statewide CareerConneCT submission to expand the Pipeline program into other sectors, c) Good jobs Challenge submission by the state, and d) seCTer's Build Back Better Regional Challenge Round II application to the US Economic Development Administration.
- Financial Review – Mr. Saporito provided a review of EWIB's administrative rate trend for the past four years. The analysis demonstrated EWIB organizational efficiency relative to the allowable rate under state & federal contracts (6.0% - 7.1% for EWIB versus an allowable rate of 10%).
- MPI Update – Mr. Hill provided an update on the MPI program, noting that 2,234 job placements have been made in the program since the April 2016 launch.

COMMITTEE REPORT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- EWIB Board Resolutions EWIB-22-01 & EWIB-22-02 – A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolutions EWIB-22-01 (Career ConneCT contract) & EWIB-22-02 (WIOA Rapid Response Funds contract), as presented (MONAHAN/BUTLER). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.
- Resignations – Chairman Jewell informed the Board that Shannon Flanagan (Web Industries), and Travis Monroe (Lawrence + Memorial Hospital) have resigned from the Board after leaving their respective companies.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

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