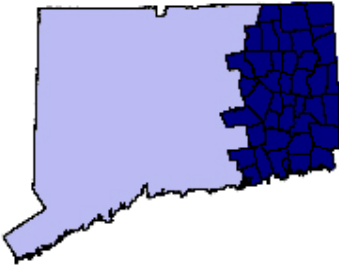


EASTERN CT WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL OF CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS

[HTTP://WWW.EWIB.ORG](http://www.ewib.org)



Hon. Thomas Sparkman, Chair
1st Selectman, Lisbon

Hon. Ronald McDaniel, Vice-Chair
Mayor, Montville

Hon. Christopher Lippke, Secretary/Treasurer
1st Selectman, Canterbury

Hon. Peter Nystrom, Member
Mayor, Norwich

Hon. Kevin Cunningham, Member
1st Selectman, Plainfield

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2021

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS: Thomas Sparkman, *Lisbon*; Ron McDaniel, *Montville*; Christopher Lippke, *Canterbury*; Peter Nystrom, *Norwich*; & Kevin Cunningham, *Plainfield*

OTHERS: Jim Butler; Mark Hill; Guy Saporito, Jr.; Carol LaBelle; & Sheila Taurianen

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sparkman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 CEO Council Virtual meeting as presented (**CUNNINGHAM/MCDANIEL**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

▪ President's Presentation

- Mr. Hill began his report by sharing a letter of support for proposed bill LCO #3166 that EWIB's Board of Directors submitted at the request of Sen. Cathy Osten (*CT 19th Dist.*). He noted that the Board's letter was in alignment with *The Bulletin* Op-ed co-written by CEO Council members Peter Nystrom (*Mayor, City of Norwich*) and Ronald McDaniel (*Mayor, Town of Montville*) on Jan. 17, 2021.
- Mr. Hill shared that U.S. Rep. Courtney has requested EWIB participate in a virtual event to the Eastern CT State Legislative delegation and other regional stakeholders regarding the Eastern CT Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) program later this month. The exact date has yet to be determined.
- Eastern CT unemployment has more than doubled since early 2020. The EWIB team updated the Council on three initiatives previously launched to address this issue. First, Mr. Hill noted that EWIB has successfully worked with employers to stimulate hiring in the region. The last ten training classes in manufacturing have achieved a 95% placement rate. Second, Mr. Saporito reported on *SkillUp CT* (*the rollout of online training across the state*), which was modeled after EWIB's Metrix online training; it has enrolled ~24,000 registrants who have



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completed ~35,000 courses, spending a total of ~45,000 hours. He stated that this performance compares favorably against other states. Third, Ms. LaBelle reported on EWIB's CARES funding to support training programs for the unemployed. She highlighted that the number of trainees in this program has exceeded the goal by 36% (124 vs 91 trainees) and that 92% of trainees achieved perfect attendance due mainly to the financial assistance (stipends & support services) trainees received while in training. The CARES funding provided financial support to participants via class stipends (46%), transportation (26%), housing (17%), technology (4%), & other (7%).

- Mr. Saporito provided an overview of the annual Independent Auditor's Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020. He noted the audit was "clean" with no findings, as evident of their opinion.
- Ms. LaBelle provided an overview of the upcoming 2021 competitive procurement of services for the American Job Centers-East, which is conducted every four-years. Services to be procured include case management, business services, technology services, and one-stop operator.
- Mr. Hill informed members that Capital Workforce Partners (*Hartford regional workforce board*) has received a four-year, \$10 million H1-B Grant from USDOL on behalf of CT's five (5) workforce boards. The grant's funding will be used to duplicate EWIB's MPI program in the IT industry as well as provide for incumbent worker training in manufacturing. EWIB will receive ~\$1.5 million from the grant, which will be used for incumbent worker training in manufacturing.

▪ **Ratification of EWIB Board's Actions**

Members ratified the actions of EWIB's Jan. 26, 2021 Board of Directors meeting:

- A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB's financial audit for the fiscal year ending Jun 30, 2020 as presented (**CUNNINGHAM/McDANIEL**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.
- A **MOTION** was made to approve the release of the 2021 procurement for AJC-East services as presented (**McDANIEL/NYSTROM**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- **EWIB Board Member Nomination** - The Council reviewed a nomination received from the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce for Shannon Flanagan of Web Industries to fill a business vacancy on EWIB's Board of Directors. A **MOTION** was made to approve the nomination of Shannon Flanagan, Plant Manager, Web Industries to EWIB's Board of Directors (**NYSTROM/CUNNINGHAM**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.