

Monmouth County Workforce Development Board Minutes of March 4, 2021

Members Present

Robert Connolly, Chair
Roseann Isasi, Vice-Chair
Patricia Carlesimo, Trustee
Brian Wallace, Trustee
John Brown
Paul Dement
Wyatt Earp
Charles Ford
John Gagliano
Kay Harris
Dallas Hlatky
Rene Kurowski
Violeta Peters
Susan Rakoci-Anderson
Joseph Robinson
William Salcedo
Lorraine Scheibener
David Stout
Judy Van Brunt
Benjamin Waldron
Cyndie Williams

Members Absent

John Ciufu
Chris Femiano
Robert Shimko

Staff Present

Larry Sternbach
Lucy Rivera

Guests

Thomas Arnone, Director
Monmouth County Board of County
Commissioners

Susan Kiley, Deputy Director
Monmouth County Board of County
Commissioners and Liaison to the
Workforce Development Board

Amanda Stone, Director
Monmouth County Tourism

Tyler Breaux
MACTS, Financial Recovery Initiative

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF PUBLIC MEETING LAW:

- Robert Connolly, Chair of the WDB, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. via a Zoom Meeting due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- N.J. Provisions of the Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and its revisions, were satisfied by publication of a Public Notice in Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger newspapers.

ROLL CALL:

- Attendance was taken with sufficient number of WDB members present to constitute a quorum.

APPROVAL MINUTES:

- Mr. Connolly entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 WDB meeting. ***Patricia Carlesimo made a motion, which was seconded by John Gagliano to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 WDB meeting as written and distributed. No corrections or changes were offered, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Robert Connolly, Chair of the Workforce Development Board welcomed and introduced:
 - Monmouth County Commissioner Director, Thomas Arnone
 - Monmouth County Commissioner Deputy Director, Susan Kiley
 - Amanda Stone, Director of Monmouth County Tourism
 - Tyler Breaux, MACTS Financial Recovery Initiative

PRESENTATION BY MONMOUTH COUNTY TOURISM:

- Commissioner Director Tom Arnone, Tourism Liaison and Amanda Stone, Director of Monmouth County Tourism gave a PowerPoint presentation.
- Commissioner Director Arnone stated that he is very pleased how Monmouth County handled the Covid-19 pandemic. He also stated that he is anticipating a very good year working with Amanda Stone, Director of Monmouth County Tourism.
- Commissioner Arnone noted that the County of Monmouth had received \$108 million dollars as part of the CARES Act. He stated that that the County used some of this funding to provide relief to all the municipalities in the County.
- He also stated that the County has disbursed approximately \$46 million dollars in \$10,000 increments to businesses in Monmouth County.
- Monmouth County is a \$2.6 billion dollar tourism industry. Below are some statistics for 2019:
 - Lodging: \$574.6 million
 - Food & Beverage: \$732.6 million
 - Recreation: \$464.9 million
 - Retail: \$561.7 million
 - Transportation: \$317.5 million
- Looking ahead, the County is focusing on supporting restaurants and small businesses; marketing the hotel industry by promoting confidence to visitors to let them know they are safe when they visit businesses as well as when they stay at hotels and dine at restaurants.
- The County has a new tourism website www.tourism.visitmonmouth.com, which will enable the County to market throughout the northeast.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **WDB Updates:**
 - PY'20 WDB Budget:
 - Because of delays caused by additional grants being added/or deleted over the past few months, the PY'20 WDB Budget for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, was emailed to the Workforce Development Board for approval on January 5, 2021. The budget was unanimously approved electronically.
 - Branding:
 - WDB Directors are requesting that Workforce Development branding be consistent, statewide branding.

- New Website:
 - The Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development will be launching their new website in mid to late march.
www.WorkinMonmouth.com
- **NJDOL Updates:**
 - NJDOL has launched a new website: www.careerservices.nj.gov
 - This new website replaces the previous careerconnect.
 - Co-Location of One-Stops – NJDOL is re-evaluating requirements.

DASHBOARD:

- Obligated all PY'19 funding for Dislocated Worker and Youth. 69% of Adult funds have been obligated, but will be able to carry over into PY'20.
- Customer Flow has been impacted by the pandemic, but PY'20 funding is moving along.
- **Pivot to Recovery:**
 - The Monmouth County Workforce Development Board is putting programs in place to position themselves to getting people back to work. Some of initiatives are as follows:
 - Job Seekers
 - In-school Youth Work Experience Program awarded to the Rugby School in the amount of \$65,000
 - 2021 Summer Youth Employment Program. Grant opportunity to be announced in March of 2021.
 - Technology Upgrades:
 - SkillUp Monmouth (currently there are 1,841 registrations) Monmouth is among the leaders the State with their Skill-Up program.
 - Text Messaging Communications
 - Remote Working: Laptops for staff
 - Businesses
 - Incumbent Worker Training Program – In the process of signing an agreement with Brookdale Community College for \$150,000 to help businesses train their existing staff. The program would run from March 2021 through December 2021.
 - New Hire Incentive Program – On-the-Job Training. Went out for Request for Proposals – no bids were received.
 - Will run an in-house OJT Program.
 - The Director of the Workforce Development Board requested a motion to use Incumbent Worker Training funds for non-profit and government organizations and also to run an in-house On-the-Job Training Program where funds can also be used for non-profit and government organizations. ***Rob Connolly made a motion to approve the use of Incumbent Worker Training funds for non-profit and government organizations. The motion was second by Judy VanBrunt. The motion was unanimously approved.***

- *Cyndie Williams made a motion to approve an in-house OJT Program where funds can also be used for non-profit and government organizations, seconded by Rob Connolly. The motion was unanimously approved.*

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

- One-Stop Operations:
 - Discussion on “Restarting the Economy” Business Focus Group
- **Basic Skills & Literacy:**
 - Focus on Employment
- **Services to People with Disabilities:**
 - Initiative to publish monthly success stories
- **Youth Council:**
 - Develop a Youth Communications Plan
- **Awards Committee:**
 - Monitor the pandemic situation for the Partnership Awards Dinner

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WDB General Board Meeting – June 3, 2021 – 10:00 AM – via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT:

- *There being no further business to come before the WDB, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM upon a motion from Violeta Peters. The motion was seconded by Rob Connolly and unanimously approved.*