

ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026

Members Present:

Scott Greenwald, Assistant Chairman
Robert Allen
Marty Crawford
Matt Smallheer
Robert Trentman

Members Excused:

Ken Sharkey, Chairman
Rick Vernier

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose

Others Present:

Darren James, MidAmerica Airport Director
Kimberly Huth, Military Affairs Director

Call to Order:

Assistant Chairman Scott Greenwald called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Regarding the Agenda:

Assistant Chairman Greenwald asked if anyone present had a question or comment regarding the agenda. There were none.

Approval of July 8, 2026, Committee Minutes (action required):

Assistant Chairman Greenwald called for action on the July 8, 2026, Committee minutes. Mr. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes which were seconded by Mr. Crawford. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Director's Report):

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Global Aerospace Summit is next Wednesday and Thursday. It is a great opportunity to make aerospace industry professionals from across the country aware of the great things happening in our area. It is expected that more than one hundred military job seekers will connect with employers during the job fair portion of the event.

Fair St. Clair was a big success. While there were some issues beyond the committee's control, the event was successful overall. It is expected that the fairgrounds being back in business will generate additional economic interest in that part of the County.

An entity previously mentioned interested in the old Hubbell Wiegmann site in Freeburg did not pan out. However, a new company is now considering the site for expansion. Like the first company, this entity is based in a neighboring county and is interested in expanding. The company could bring 100-120 new jobs to the site.

Mr. Stubblefield attended a Joint Review Board meeting in Swansea regarding their current Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. After the meeting, they discussed the Triple Lakes TIF district proposal, which covers the area around Sullivan Drive and Frank Scott Parkway. The proposal is a mixed-use development of housing and commerce. The Village would like an intergovernmental agreement allowing it to reimburse itself for its initial \$3.3 million wastewater investment and then begin sharing revenue with overlapping taxing bodies in two ways. First 30% of property tax revenue generated by residential properties within the TIF project would be pledged to the impacted school districts to help offset the added cost of educating new students. Second, 25% of property tax revenue generated by non-residential properties within the TIG project would be declared surplus and distributed among all taxing bodies.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the Director's report, and Mr. Smallheer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (MidAmerica Airport Director's Report):

Mr. Darren James reported that airport activity remains strong, with July representing an exceptionally successful month. July 2026 recorded the highest monthly passenger total in the airport's history, with nearly 60,000 passengers traveling through the airport. Passenger records have now been established in February, March, May, June, and July, demonstrating continued growth in airport activity.

Passenger traffic in July 2026 increased by 6.3% compared with July 2025, while year-to date passenger activity reflected an 8.2% increase compared with the same period in 2025. Additionally, the first week in August recorded the highest weekly enplanement total in the airport's history, with more than 7,000 passengers.

Mr. James also reported that negotiations with Sun Country Airlines are ongoing. The airport is currently working with Sun Country on ground handling and an airport use agreement to support casino charter flights serving the area. The service is anticipated to begin in October and is expected to generate additional operational revenue for the airport.

Mr. Smallheer asked for clarification regarding casino charters. Mr. James explained that a casino charter is a dedicated charter flight arranged to transport guests directly to casino destinations, which will include Biloxi, Mississippi and Bullhead City, Arizona.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Smallheer made a motion to approve the Director's report, and Mr. Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Military Affairs Director Comments):

Ms. Huth reported that Scott Air Force Base (SAFB) has secured funding for improvements to the Air Park located right outside the base gate. The improvements will include cleaning, refurbishing, and repainting the aircraft display. The project follows concerns regarding the appearance of the aircraft and will enhance the overall presentation of the facility.

Ms. Huth also provided an update on a department-wide barracks task force focused on addressing issues such as mold, plumbing, electrical systems, and other facility needs, followed by improvements to furniture and amenities. SAFB has expressed interest in participating as a potential pilot installation, with coordination underway with Civil Engineering.

Ms. Huth recognized the significant contribution of SAFB personnel to Fair St. Clair, noting that approximately fifty volunteers participated each day. Ms. Huth concluded by noting that the next major event will be the SAFB Air Show in July 2027.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the Director's report, and Mr. Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments:

Adjournment:

Assistant Chairman Greenwald asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smallheer so moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Crawford. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 5:19 p.m.