

NORMAL TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING
NORMAL TOWNSHIP BUILDING
304 EAST MULBERRY
Brandt Industries Project Development Agreement
NOVEMBER 22, 2017
8:02AM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Sarah Grammer, Sally Pyne, Arlene Hosea, Samantha Quigle and Ray Ropp

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT: Assessor Rob Cranston, Highway Commissioner Arin Rader and Township Clerk Amy Conklin

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Economic Development Council Mike O'Grady and Kyle Ham, The Pantagraph Derek Beigh, WGLT Charlie Schlenker and Citizens Marie-Susanne Langille, Jen Morsch, Mark Huffman, Janet Guaderrama, Kathleen Kirk, Nikki Piercy, Joel Studebaker, Alyssa Cooper, Heather Jia, Leanna Bordner, Ryan Edel and Dane Simpson

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joel Studebaker believed that this process to review the information on Brandt Industries did not provide enough time to make a sound decision and that an Abatement is a give away and doesn't guarantee for our community, should have a Clawback, did not believe EDC process a fair deal and wants Board to vote "no"

Janet Guaderrama believed that since Canada has socialized medicine, that Brandt, a Canadian business may not offer health insurance to their employees

Ryan Edel believed that if Brandt is willing to pay back ½ the taxed amount why is the County offering the abatement in the first place

Marie-Susanne Langille is from Canada and believes that Brandt Industries is connected to a Right Wing organization and does not believe that a Canadian business should be asking favors from America

DISCUSSION

Kyle Ham stated that in 2013, the EDC created a standard for these types of negotiations (MOU) but it was not signed because it did not provide competition.

The EDC did not negotiate this deal with Brandt- the County did

Illinois has lost 18,000 manufacturing jobs in the past 4 years where as other states in the region have added 10,000+ manufacturing jobs

If Brandt does not meet Benchmarks, the county does not have to rebate the abatements

This process was quick for every entity involved, which has been a 5 week period. This is common with industry and negotiations

EDC speaks with Brandt daily and the facility sale can be closed by December 15, 2017

Supervisor Sarah Grammer is supportive on wanting to bring Brandt to our community but does not agree how the abatement and agreements are negotiated and believes that a Clawback should be in the agreement and that there should be guarantee on jobs and income- how much they will invest in the community

Sally Pyne believes that in the future, guidelines on negotiations should be re-examined so that the process is transparent for the citizens. Even though the agreement is not ideal, it is a deal to be made at this time

Arlene Hosea believes that the negotiating process in the future should be clear and transparent to the citizens but believes this agreement will bring jobs to the community and will help it grow

Samantha Quigle asked what other entities still have to vote- Hudson Fire and Library will vote the following week

Ray Ropp believes that these jobs will improve the whole community especially in the schools receiving more aid because of the increase in students- the future can be of growth instead of loss as it has been for several years

Arin Rader believes that this will provide "life" to this community and there will be less people asking for assistance

Sally Pyne made the motion for Normal Township to approve the Project Development Agreement with Brandt Industries USA, Ltd. dated November 14, 2017 which includes the 19500 N. 1425 East Road location. Ray Ropp seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Trustee Sally Pyne Yes

Trustee Arlene Hosea Yes

Trustee Samantha Quigle No

Trustee Ray Ropp Yes

Supervisor Sarah Grammer No

Approve 3 Disapprove 2

The motion is approved and passes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51AM

Normal Township Clerk- Amy Conklin

Date