

**SPECIAL JOINT WORK SESSION
MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL
MANISTEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. - Council Chambers, City Hall

I. Call to Order.

II. Work Session Items.

a.) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WORK SESSION RELATED ITEMS.

b.) PRESENTATION BY THE MANISTEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

c.) OTHER.

III. Adjourn.

MANISTEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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MANISTEE MI 49660
(231) 723-2575

Economic Development Proposal

18^h September 2017

OVERVIEW

Over the last several years the Chamber has been expanding its role in economic and workforce development as a direct result of member and community needs. This proposal is the next logical step for the Chamber moving forward, filling a gap to become the leader in economic development for Manistee County.

Adding economic development as a separate enterprise of the Chamber, with two separate Boards, will increase funding levels. This will be achieved through public and private partnerships, diversifying funding due to the connectivity with the business community.

The benefits of having the Chamber as the leader in economic development offers a simplified process for developers and investors, becoming the single point of contact regardless of the type of development.

The Chamber has over 300 public and private business and organizations within our network, which increases the communication conduit to the business community.

The model the Chamber is developing is in line with many of our partner Chambers throughout the State, which are the following: Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce, Barry County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Growth Alliance, Flint and Genesee Chamber of Commerce, Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce and Traverse CONNECT.

GOALS

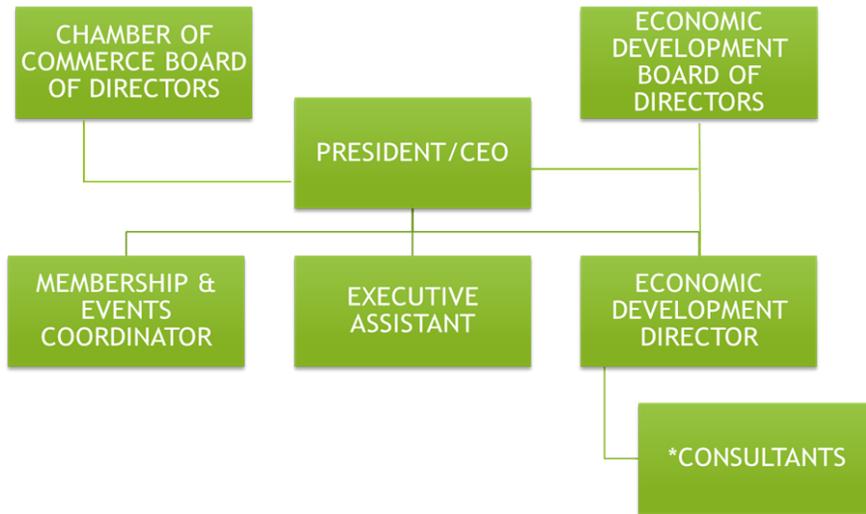
1. Build a dynamic and sustainable organization to serve the businesses, workforce, and economic development needs of the entire Manistee County.
2. Expand and secure private and public sector financial support to diversify funding and supplement proposed by City and County.
3. Provide a focused approach to Economic Development to include, but not limited to direct business recruitment and retention, workforce training, funding, and grants, with accountability and sustainability.

BOARD STRUCTURE

The Board will be made up of 7-9 individuals and will meet on a scheduled monthly basis. The Economic Development Director will be required to provide monthly reports to the Board. Board members will represent the following areas:

- City and County (1 seat each)
- Private Sector (2-3 seats)
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (1 seat)
- Industrial Development Corporation (1 seat)
- Manistee Manufacturers Council (1 seat)
- Chamber Board Director (1 seat)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



*Consultants to be utilized on a per project basis, with a contract outlining scope of work, deadline, and payment schedule.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Economic Development Director will provide monthly reports to the Board of Directors and quarterly reports and presentations as requested. An annual report will be produced on the activity for the year, progress, and deliverables.

GREATEST AREAS OF GROWTH & SUCCESS

- Business & Career Expo
- Government Affairs & Legislative Advocacy
- Manistee Area Leadership Program

2018 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Developer Day

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- Relocation Guide
 - Trainings & Workshops

POTENTIAL PRIORITIES

- Redevelopment of targeted vacant and blighted buildings throughout the County.
- Continue discussion/action on rerouting railroad.
- Expansion of snowmobile/ORV trails in the County.
- Support and develop agritourism in the County.
- Continue to support existing development and infrastructure projects.
- Continue to support and be the fiduciary for County and City grants.
- Provide City specific housing study and address housing developments within City and County.
- Develop and sustain business support services.

FUNDING

The Chamber of Commerce will set up a 501C3 organization to be a fiduciary for existing and new grants available. A separate set of financials for this new function of the Chamber will be maintained for the economic development arm of the Chamber. In addition, the annual Chamber dues structure will allow an allocation for economic development.

The Chamber is seeking \$32,563 from the City of Manistee and \$63,538 from the County of Manistee, which is a 30% reduction.