

**Columbia and Boone County Library District
Minutes, Meeting of January 16, 2025**

Call to Order, Roll Call and Quorum Determination

Dorothy Carner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Columbia and Boone County Library District Board members present were Shannon Alvis, Margrace Buckler, Dorothy Carner, Seth Christensen, Jacqueline Kelly, Pat Powell, Travis Pringle, and Jennifer Rodewald. Lisa Finn was absent. A quorum of members was present.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

There were no corrections or comments concerning the minutes of the August 15, 2024 Columbia and Boone County Library District Board Meeting. The minutes were approved as written.

REDI Presentation on Proposed Chapter 100 Project

Kathleen Bruegenhemke, a member of the REDI incentive committee, introduced herself as well as her fellow committee member Matt Williams; REDI President Stacy Button; Dan Horst, senior manufacturing engineer and local plant manager for Schneider Electric; and Jeff Morris, Senior Director State Government Relations at Schneider Electric, who was the main presenter for the meeting. Before handing the floor over to Jeff, Kathleen gave a brief background of Schneider Electric, formerly Square D, which came to Columbia in 1977. Jeff shared more information about the company, its employees, sustainability efforts, and goals explaining the growth and economic status of the company. Jeff went on to share that with the project being proposed, Schneider Electric has chosen five different states for potential expansion, Columbia being one of those locations. The company would like to build a new 75,000 square foot warehouse behind their existing space in order to free up more manufacturing space and to address existing safety and production concerns. Jeff reported that this expansion would create about 240 new jobs in addition to the 450 employees they currently have. Jeff also explained that this presentation and the Chapter 100 hearing are all initial steps in building a case for why this location should be chosen, thus if Columbia is not chosen, we would not lose anything, but if it does get chosen, we would benefit from the increase in tax revenue.

Jacqueline Kelly asked Jeff, regarding their hiring of people with GEDs, how they plan on attracting people to apply, and what innovative things the company will offer to find these potential employees. While Jeff shared that he is not privy to all of the HR practices in his position, he did share that the HR managers for the major companies meet quarterly to discuss these practices and that his team met with the Workforce Development Board who gave them some great leads on where to look for employees.

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Travis Pringle asked if the new construction would require any increased capacity from Water and Light or if the facility could handle the increase. Jeff deferred the question to Dan who shared that they have done internal evaluations and did not find any concerns with the increase on utilities.

Kathleen gave a short overview of the project, sharing that they are requesting a 50% abatement of real and personal property taxes further reporting that the abatement does meet the Chapter 100 guidelines. She shared that this abatement only applies to new capital investments. Kathleen reported that Schneider Electric paid just over \$10,000 in taxes in 2024, while, if approved, this project would generate roughly \$125,000 in additional tax revenue over the next 10 years. Kathleen reiterated that this is a competitive project so this additional revenue will only be generated if Columbia is chosen as one of the expansion project locations.

After the presentation, Dorothy Carner stated that she would like to entertain a motion to authorize her as the representative of the CBCLD Board to the Chapter 100 taxing district review panel to vote either in favor or against this project.

ACTION: Buckler moved, Kelly seconded authorizing Carner as the CBCLD representative to the Chapter 100 Taxing District Review Panel to vote in favor of the Chapter 100 project. The vote was taken by roll call: Alvis - yes; Buckler - yes; Carner - yes; Christensen - yes; Kelly -yes; Powell - yes; Pringle - yes; and Rodewald - yes. The motion passed.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Carner adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Emily Camden.

Shannon Alvis, CBCLD Secretary/Warrant Officer