

Bertrand Township Board
AACOA Extrusions, Inc IFT Certificate Granting Hearing
Thursday, April 14, 2016

Bertrand Township Hall
3835 Buffalo Rd., Buchanan, MI 49107

Supervisor Hicks called the public hearing to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Hicks, Kuhn, LeClaire, Vite, Zelmer

Special Guests: Mr. Barkley Garrett, Executive Director SMEGA; Mark North, General Manager, AACOA Extrusions, Inc.; Rob Dunlap, JA Wagner (AACOA builder)

Supervisor Hicks gave some brief comments regarding the purpose of the public hearing. This hearing is simply to consider AACOA's request for an IFT. They will then go before the Zoning Board as the first step in hearings to approve the expansion. He then introduced Barkley Garrett, Executive Director of the Southwest Michigan Economic Growth Alliance (SMEGA). Mr. Garrett gave the following AACOA expansion statistics:

- This will be a \$16 million expansion – building and equipment
- Building alone is over \$5 million
- Projected 50 new jobs in the next three years

Mr. Garrett introduced Mark North, AACOA/ Niles General Manager. Mr. North gave the following background highlights of AACOA/Niles:

- Founded in 1972 in Elkhart.
- Moved into Bertrand Twp from Elkhart in 1997.
- AACOA has had two additional expansion projects in 2001 and 2011.
- They currently employ 270 people
- They've been running 24/7 for over four years.
- This expansion project will be 115,000 ft² of new building space, increasing total building space to over 25,000 ft²

Supervisor Hicks opened the hearing to public comments. Resident Jim Rankle wanted clarification on current employment numbers and actual new job projections. Resident Sue Knisely wondered about any increased noise levels.

Having no further questions from the public, the AACOA public hearing was closed at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Vite

Bertrand Township Clerk

April 15, 2016

Date