

**ROCHELLE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM MEMO
REGULAR MEETING**

SUBJECT: Approval of \$50,000 contribution to the Ogle County Economic Development Corp.

Staff Contact: Jeff Fiegenschuh, City Manager

Summary: The communities of Oregon, Mt. Morris, Polo and Byron, along with Ogle County began the process of starting a county wide economic development group in 2022. The City of Rochelle and GREDCO has attended several meetings as well. These same communities have given financial support to the group along with ComEd, Nicor and Comcast. The goal of the group is to form a county wide effort to engage more economic development initiatives cooperatively. They recently hired the TheNextMove Group to hire an executive director.

We are the only community in Ogle County with a full-time professional ED staff. To this point, we have offered input on how to begin the organization but are not voting members. Recently the City Manager in Oregon and the Ogle County Board Chair approached the city to inquire about a one-time donation to help move the effort forward. In the spirit of cooperation and the possibility of further partnerships in the future, I recommend this one-time contribution from the rail fund.

I've included a copy of their business plan for your review. Their board consists of the following members:

Randy Schoon-Polo-President
Darin DeHaan-Oregon-Vice President
John Ricard-Byron-Treasurer
Paula Diehl-Mt. Morris-Secretary

Revenue Sources:

Source:	Budgeted Amount:	Proposed Expenditure
City Railroad	\$50,000	\$50,000

Recommendation: Approved one-time donation of \$50,000 to the Ogle County Economic Development Corp.