

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD-RI
WORKFORCE EXPANSION COMMITTEE MEETING
August 23, 2007**

MINUTES

Members Present: Joe Bianco, Maureen Palumbo, Connie Parks, and Nancy Olson
Members Absent: Sharon Petrarca
Staff Present: Maureen Mooney
Guest Present: Paul Harden, EDC

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Meeting minutes of June 22, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Paul Harden presented the grant request from Maxon Automatic Machinery Company. The company designs, manufactures and services roll stands, rotary cutters and sheet handling systems for the converting and printing industries. An affiliated company, Hillside Industries, a steel fabricator serving the construction industry, contracts administrative and manufacturing services from Maxon.

Maureen Palumbo provided an overview of this company since she has worked with them on an OJT program. She mentioned that Maxon was a professional company whose employees are paid well and who receive raises. The company is located near the airport in Westerly. There is information on file of their expansion as they have acquired another business. She noted it is a great company providing on-demand jobs and that they are valuable to the state's workforce.

This company would hire 10 employees: 4 Fabricators, 2 Design Engineers, 2 Machinists, 1 Stock Room Attendant and 1 Financial Associate. The rates of pay range from \$15 - \$22 per hour.

Paul noted that the Grant Proposal incorrectly states the EDC staff recommendation amount of \$40,000. He clarified that this should be \$50,000 corresponding to the Grant request amount also listed.

A review of the job titles raised a question about the training being provided for the Stock Room Attendant I. Maureen responded that it was not the average stock room position as this position would also benefit from the training proposed.

Joe Bianco inquired if RI residents were given preference in hiring. Paul Harden responded that this cannot be mandated but companies are asked to put forth a best faith effort to hire Rhode Island employees.

Joe Bianco also inquired if the company was utilizing netWORKri services to promote jobs as this has been a topic of discussion at the Workforce Expansion committee meetings. Connie Parks indicated they are, as are others in that area. Paul Harden reported that when awards are sent out, the company is asked to work with the Department of Labor and Training to list jobs. He has observed that this is generally occurring and knows of Employment Service Representatives (ESRs) attending grant implementation meetings.

With no further discussion a motion was entered to approve the EDC staff recommendation of \$50,000 to be awarded to Maxson Automatic Machinery Company.

VOTE: Maureen Palumbo moved to approved, seconded by Connie Parks. All approved.

With no other business pending, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney