

St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency

Town of Louisville Municipal Offices

Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Chairman McNeil.

Roll Call/Determination of Quorum: In attendance at the Town of Louisville Municipal Offices are board members Clark, Strait, and McNeil. Patrick Kelly is in attendance from the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency. Also, present is River Valley Redevelopment Agency Attorney Eric Gustafson, Andrew McMahan from the Massena Electric Department, and Tricia Wilson from NYPA. Chairman McNeil announces there is a quorum. Board member Mr. Forsythe joins the meeting at 4:12 PM.

Public Notice: Public notifications were sent on March 18, 2024 to, at a minimum: St. Lawrence County's newspapers designated for the publication of local laws and other matters required by law to be published. Notifications are also sent to other local media sources and websites.

Approval of Minutes: Strait/Clark motion/second to approve the January 30, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passes unanimously.

Financial Report: None

New Business:

Resolution RVR 24-03-03: Support for the Continued Operation of the New York State Correctional Facilities in St. Lawrence County. Strait/Clark motion/second. Mr. Kelly passes out a "Talking Points" document regarding the Gouverneur and Riverview Correctional facilities. Discussion ensues regarding the Governor's budget proposal to close up to five prisons within 90 days. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Forsythe discuss the efforts of the local task force consisting of representatives from the County, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, and the IDA are undertaking in support of the facilities. Chairman McNeil comments on the importance of the facilities in the region. Motion passes unanimously.

IDA Staff Report:

Mr. Kelly informs the board that the Kingston Pharmaceutical loan made in 2018 has been paid off. The company currently has approximately 30 employees in Massena. Mr. Kelly also highlights the progress at the site of the planned Air Products green hydrogen facility in Massena and informs the board that IDA staff have been meeting with company officials to discuss resources available for workforce development.

The RVRDA has an outstanding loan with Potsdam Specialty Paper ("PSPI"). As a result of this loan, the RVRDA has a collateral position on PSPI's assets, including accounts receivable. PSPI has requested a waiver relative to a specific account receivable in order to utilize a vendor financing program for that receivable. The loan is current, monthly payments are always paid on time, and the company is currently exceeding its employment goals from the loan. Providing the waiver will subordinate our interest in this specific customer's receivables, which Mr. Kelly recommends. As a result, PSPI will have access to the vendor financing program, which will enable it to receive much faster payments assisting with the cash flow requirements necessary to service the volume of business from the account. The board agrees and authorizes Mr. Kelly to execute the waiver agreement.

Mr. Kelly informs the board that the repair for the damage at Massena Industrial Park Lot 19 Building from a truck or plow will cost approximately \$1,650.

IDA staff assisted with organizing the January 23rd Business Connections event at Seaway Tech in Norwood. The opportunity to connect businesses with programs and students at the BOCES Career and Technical Education Centers has been positive. There is a similar event planned at Northwest Tech in Ogdensburg on March 26th.

Lori Sibley from the IDA attended a job fair at Fort Drum on February 1st and Ms. Sibley and Bob Ahlfeld from the IDA attended Gateways to Careers at SUNY Canton on March 13th. Mr. Ahlfeld also attended the Québec-New York Transportation Rendezvous on March 19th in Plattsburgh.

Mr. Kelly points out that workforce issues continue to be of primary importance to employers. He is pleased to report that the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES (Adult Education and Workforce Development unit) plans on occupying space in the IDA building in Canton. Hopefully this new location will result in even greater collaboration between the IDA and BOCES as we work on economic and workforce development issues.

Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program (“CDEIP”) applications for 2024 were made available on February 1st and are due on April 15th.

MED Report: No report.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session: at 4:30 PM Strait/Clark motion/second to move to Executive Session to discuss the financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation as well as the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property. A motion to return to regular session is made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Forsythe, at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment: at 5:32 PM Clark/Forsythe motion/second to adjourn, Chairman McNeil declares the meeting adjourned.