

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Meeting of June 28, 2019 (Annual Meeting)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Staples called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the IDA office, Ernest J. LaBaff Industrial Building, Canton.

ROLL CALL:

Blevins.....	Present	Reagen	Present
Hall	Present	LaBaff.....	Present
McMahon	Present	Staples.....	Present
Morrill	Present		

SLCIDA Chairman Staples announces there is a quorum.

Others: IDA Staff (Patrick Kelly and Lori Sibley). IDA-LDC Staff (Thomas Plastino).

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notifications sent June 19, 2019 to, at a minimum: newspapers designated for the publication of local laws and other matters required by law to be published; additional local media sources and websites.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2019 meeting by Mr. LaBaff seconded by Mr. McMahon. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Motion to accept the April and May 2019 financial reports by Mr. Blevins, seconded by Mr. LaBaff. Mr. Kelly reports on a few of the April highlights such as the pass thru revenue from the Town of Clifton for the J&L Rehabilitation Project and the \$100,000 received from the IDA-LDC for the RVRDA Administrative fee – 1st installment. In May, the Prime Contractor (Aktor) was paid for services performed for the J&L Remediation Project. As Mr. Kelly concludes the report, Mr. Blevins inquires about the interest income for April having a negative balance. Mr. Kelly will confer with Mrs. Gilbert, Chief Financial Officer, about the but believes that the journal entries were posted for the audit, which resulted in the negative figure for the month. Mr. Reagen asks how much the IDA will be spending this year for the J&L Remediation Project. Mr. Kelly responds that it will be in excess of \$500,000, but he will obtain a more accurate figure. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: *Nominating Committee:* Chairman Ernest LaBaff offers the following slate of officers: Brian W. Staples (Chairman), Ernest LaBaff (Vice-Chairman) and Lynn Blevins (Secretary). There were no other nominations from the floor, and the nominees are elected by unanimous vote. The Board unanimously approves the following: Patrick Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), Kimberly Gilbert (Chief Financial Officer) and Law Firm of Silver & Collins (Agency General Counsel).

STAFF REPORT: Patrick Kelly reports the following:

North American Forest Group: A representative from the Northern Border Regional Commission contacted our office regarding the application submitted on May 15th for funding to assist in the acquisition of \$1,070,000 in equipment for North American Forest Group's new facility in the Town of Oswegatchie (the former ACCO manufacturing plant). Although there was no definitive answer regarding an award, the project has been looked at favorably and we should learn very soon if there will be funding available for the project.

Empire State Mines: The price of Zinc is trending down. Mr. Kelly notes that the price of zinc is at \$1.15 (down from \$1.25). Mr. Plastino, also serving as Executive Director for the Workforce Investment Board, adds that Empire State Mines rescinded their WARN notice for a mass layoff in May.

Community Preservation Partners: We have not yet received an official response from the State regarding our bond allocation request for the CPP project. We are anticipating confirmation within the next couple of weeks.

Vecino Group: There is a meeting scheduled for this afternoon with the local taxing jurisdictions in Potsdam relating to the Vecino Group's proposed project in Old Snell Hall on Clarkson's former downtown campus. Mr. Reagen asks what is the potential use for the property? Mr. Kelly responds it will be a mixed-use facility with apartments as well as space which is proposed to be leased to Clarkson and the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.

Former Newell Manufacturing Facility: Draft bid docs are complete and will go out next week. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled for week of July 8th.

J&L Remediation Project: Demolition and abatement is substantially complete.

Newton Falls Railroad Rehabilitation Project: Working on final draw of \$1.2 - \$1.3 million with the State. The Northern Border Regional Commission approved a rail grant for crossing work, the project engineer is working on this stage of the project now.

Adirondack Park Community Smart Growth Grant: An application was submitted earlier this month to the Adirondack Smart Growth Grant for the Towns of Clifton, Fine, and Pitcairn. The goal of the application was to obtain funding for façade and business improvements.

St. Lawrence County Economic Development Services Contract: The services contract with the County is set to expire this year. A notice will be sent today to Chairman Lightfoot requesting an extension of the agreement for three years at a rate of \$400,000 per year.

Technology Upgrades: Recent upgrades to our email and website are complete. The upgrades allow us to move to a more cloud-based technology structure. We are will be updating the phone system as well.

Reappointment: Andrew McMahons' term will expire in September 2019. Mr. Hall/Mr. LaBaff motion to recommend Mr. McMahon to another term. Carried Unanimously

New York State Senate Investigations and Government Operations Committee: Last month Senator James Skoufis, Chairman of the NYS Senate Investigations and Government Operations Committee, mailed a request to Industrial Development Agencies across the state requesting information as part of an investigation into the compliance with the Public Authorities Reform Act (PARA) and New York State General Municipal Law. The St. Lawrence County IDA has spent about 30 hours of staff time preparing a response that will be emailed to the Investigations and Government Operations Committee today. In addition to the email response, a thumb drive containing the packet of information will also be mailed (per specific guidelines provided in the Senator's request). A copy of our response will also be sent to Senators Griffo, Little, and Ritchie.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution IDA-19-06-19: Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials.

As part of New York State reporting requirements, the form will be available on the website for 30 days and sent to the Office of the New York State Comptroller. Mr. Blevins motions to approve Resolution IDA-19-06-19, seconded by Mr. McMahon. The motion is approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution IDA-19-06-20: Recognizing the Service of Christopher L. Westbrook and the Clifton-Fine Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Westbrook has been the President of the Clifton Fine Economic Development Corporation since 1997 and has served as an advocate for economic development and has been a great partner and advocate for the IDA. With Mr. Westbrook's leadership, the Clifton Fine EDC has played a successful and meaningful role supporting the business, infrastructure and community development efforts in the Towns of

Clifton and Fine. With his retirement, the IDA recognizes the dedication and efforts of Mr. Westbrook and the members of the Clifton Fine EDC. Mr. Hall motions to approve Resolution IDA-19-06-20, seconded by Mr. LaBaff. The motion is approved by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LaBaff/Reagen motion for Executive Session at 9:06 AM to discuss the financial history of a particular company. LaBaff/McMahon motion to return to Regular Session at 9:25 AM

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn is made by Mr. LaBaff, seconded by Mr. McMahon. The meeting adjourns at 9:25 AM by unanimous vote.

(Mr.) Lynn Blevins, Secretary