

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Meeting of January 28, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Staples requests that Mr. Hall (who is attending the meeting in person) direct the meeting. Mr. Hall calls the meeting to order at 9:07 AM in the main conference room at the Ernest J. LaBaff Industrial Building, Canton.

ROLL CALL:

Blevins	Present (via teleconference)	Reagen.....	Present
LaBaff	Present (via teleconference)	Hall.....	Present
McMahon.....	Present (via teleconference)		
Staples	Present (via teleconference)		
Morrill	Present (via teleconference)		

Mr. Hall announces there is a quorum.

Others: IDA Staff (Patrick Kelly, Kimberly Gilbert, Richard Williams, and Lori Sibley); IDA-LDC Attorney (Andrew Silver, Esq.)

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notifications sent January 25, 2021 to, 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 December 18, 2020 meeting by Mr. Reagen seconded by Mr. LaBaff. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORT: Patrick Kelly reports the following:

St. Lawrence County Reopening Task Force: Assisting the County Reopening Task Force with the vaccine rollout. As a former Plant Manager, John Pinkerton is lending his experience with logistical and site layout plans, as well as contact and schedule volunteers to help process registrants for the various vaccination site locations. Our participation in the vaccine rollout process keeps us informed so we are better able to assist businesses that may have questions the vaccination process.

Community Outreach: Continue to assist companies with questions related to updates with the Payroll Protection Program and other SBA assistance available, including the Restaurant Recovery Fund. We have partnered with the St. Lawrence County Chamber to provide webinars hosted by an SBA representative who provides answers to some of the most commonly asked questions surrounding the federal and state programs.

Empire State Mines: At last check, the price of Zinc was around \$1.16 (a two-month low according to national news). In response to Mr. Reagen's question about the point at which the price is considered too low, Mr. Kelly states that he is more comfortable seeing the price above \$1.00 and remaining consistently above that point. Mr. LaBaff adds that these are difficult times, so it is encouraging to see the company continues to remain operational. Mr. McMahon asks about the current employment numbers which Mr. Kelly notes is currently over 100 full time employees.

Energy Resource Projects: Currently there are public hearings scheduled in February for five solar projects. Mr. McMahon asks if there has been any opposition expressed relative to the solar projects. Mr. Kelly mentions that there has not been any opposition expressed during the public hearings or independently, but the taxing jurisdictions have expressed a desire to see a fair agreement between all parties involved. The Ag and Farmland Protection Board has voiced their concerns for utilizing prime farming land. The projects location and other variables have been carefully considered in order to keep active farmland protected. The NYS Governor continues to enhance and accelerate energy projects to keep them moving forward. Mr. Reagen asks if the IDA-LDC has involvement in the larger solar project locating in the Massena-Brasher Falls area that is experiencing some controversy. Mr. Kelly mentions that there are no formal projects with that particular developer at this time.

Marketing: Progress Edition articles and ads will be published soon in both the North Country This Week and Watertown Daily Times periodicals.

Annual Reports: The annual audit process is underway. Outreach efforts have also begun that are intended to more accurately gauge the status of each project's goals and the information collected will be input into various state and local annual reports. Board members are advised that they should receive the Annual Financial Disclosure and Board Evaluation forms via mail in the next few days. All annual report forms are required to be completed and returned prior to the March 31st deadline.

Class A Driving Course: The IDA-LDC was awarded funding from the USDA Rural Business Development Grant that will help pay for tuition costs associated with the Class A Driving Course offered at the SUNY Canton CREST Center. In 2020, 21 participants were enrolled in the class A driving course and 15 of those participants were successfully licensed. This includes 10 participants that were assisted in part with USDA RBDG grant money, of which 7 were successfully licensed. The class currently has two students who began the program on December 10th and one of the students utilized IDA-LDC funding. He is still actively enrolled in the course, so the hope is that he'll be reported as a completion before long. There are already two candidates that are ready to begin the next class which is slated to begin in February.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution LDC-21-01-01: Authorizing the Reappropriation of Funds from the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program: Mr. Kelly explains that not all approved Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program ("CDEIP") projects utilize their full award, especially if the expenses come in under budget. There have been a couple of instances in the past where funds that were not fully utilized were reappropriated to other projects. The CDEIP Fund was established, as one of its many purposes, to assist with environmental improvement projects. Discussion ensues about the Regional Economic Development Initiative ("REDI") along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River which benefits small businesses along the riverbanks affected by recent year's flooding. As a condition of accepting the REDI funding, a business must seek to match 5% of the REDI award funding. Mr. Kelly explains how the reappropriation of unused funds from recent CDEIP awards can help serve as the 5% local match requirement to assist the nine State approved small business projects in St. Lawrence County to repair structural damages resulting from the flooding and build better resiliency for years to come. Mr. Blevins initiates a conversation surrounding the award limits set for the CDEIP and the unique nature of each of these REDI projects. Mr. McMahon adds that this particular use of funds is most consistent with what the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency's Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program was intended for. Mr. LaBaff motions to approve Resolution LDC-21-01-01, seconded by Mr. Staples. Mr. Reagen abstains from the vote as he may have a

conflict due to a personal relationship with one of the potential awardees. The motion is approved by a majority vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn is made by Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. Reagen. The meeting adjourns at 9:26 AM by unanimous vote.

(Mr.) Lynn Blevins, Secretary