

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**Meeting of October 29, 2021**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Staples requests that Mr. Blevins (who is attending the meeting in person) lead the meeting. Mr. Blevins calls the meeting to order at 11:02 AM in the Thomas A. Plastino Conference Room at the Ernest J. LaBaff Industrial Building, Canton.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Mr. Blevins announces there is a quorum.

Others: IDA Staff (Patrick Kelly, Richard Williams, Bob Ahlfeld, and Lori Sibley); and Agency Counsel (Andrew Silver, Esq.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Public notifications sent October 22, 2021 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 October 1, 2021 meeting by Mr. Hall seconded by Mr. Reagen. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Motion to accept the August 2021 financial reports by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Reagen. Mr. Kelly reports on highlights that include building revenue, the fourth installment of County economic development revenue, a refund from the Property Development Corporation for the Newell building rehabilitation expenses, solar project fees, interest and expenses for on-going building and operational costs, and final expenses for the RBDG grant which will now exhaust the balance of funding provided for the CDL-A training program. Motion to accept the August 2021 financial reports by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Reagen. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**STAFF REPORT:** Patrick Kelly reports the following:

**Corning, Inc:** Public Hearing scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> to accept comments for the company's 2021 proposed expansion project in the Town of DeKalb.

**Renewable Energy Projects:** Three solar projects are scheduled to close next week with another handful of additional projects in the following weeks. There are a little over twenty renewable energy projects that have been approved with another ten projects in the development stage. NextEra has requested a letter of support for their project in the Town of Brasher. It is agreed to provide a letter that supports the notion of the project being brought forward for consideration of the siting board and the IDA.

**Fort La Presentation:** A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> for the new viewing deck. During the ceremony, the St. Lawrence County IDA and St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency were acknowledged for the assistance they have provided to the Fort through the years. Mr. Reagen mentions the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation was in attendance and he was impressed with the amount of work performed by volunteer groups in this area. A \$1.1 million project was completed on top of a \$1.3 million project that was done just 2-3 years ago to build the trail. The County distributed

\$60,000 toward the project, as matching funds, to make the project happen this summer. Mr. Reagen mentions a lot was accomplished in a brief period of time. He thanked the IDA and RVRDA for their assistance.

Former Newell Manufacturing Facility: The current rehabilitation phase is almost complete. With the border reopening again on November 8<sup>th</sup>, postcards will be going into Ontario and Quebec in November to highlight the building availability and the reopening of the border.

Drum Country Business: The IDAs in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County, the Development Authority of the North Country, Advocate Drum, and National Grid have developed a campaign called “Lets Meet” to attract people to the region. Additionally, we continue the effort to promote the County to transitioning soldiers. Following our recent visit with the Commanding General, we continue to be engaged in follow up discussions and we have attended, and are scheduled to attend, recruitment events on Post.

Attorney Silver enters the meeting at 11:12 AM

Workforce: Our unemployment rate of 4.5% is lower than the State average of 7.1%. Mr. Kelly reviews the current workforce numbers and states that we seem to be weathering the pandemic about as well as could be expected.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (“CEDS”): The CEDS is nearing completion.

Office of the State Comptroller (“OSC”) Audit: The OSC audit is near completion and a summary report is expected sometime next week, with an exit conference soon to be scheduled.

Request for Proposals for Audit Services: On October 15<sup>th</sup>, a bid opening was held as part of the request for proposals for audit services. At the next meeting, a resolution will be presented to select a firm for Audit Services.

Governance Committee Meeting: A meeting of the Governance Committee will be held in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution IDA-21-10-27: Adopting FY2022 Final Budget: The draft budget for FY2022 was reviewed at the last meeting, filed with the County Clerk’s office, and was made available for at least 20 days for public view and comment. As Mrs. Gilbert mentioned at the last meeting, certain line items needed to be modified, particularly the insurance rates for FY2022 since they just came in and a line item for \$35,000 was added to replace an Agency vehicle. Mr. Hall motions to approve Resolution IDA-21-10-27, seconded by Mr. Staples. The motion is approved by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn is made by Mr. Hall. The meeting adjourns at 11:16 AM by unanimous vote.

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(Mr.) Lynn Blevins, Secretary