

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Meeting of November 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Staples calls the meeting to order at 9:11AM 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.....	Present (via teleconference)	Hall	Present
Blevins	Absent	Reagen	Absent
Staples	Present		

Chairman Staples announces there is a quorum.

Others: IDA Staff (Patrick Kelly and Bob Ahlfeld); and SLCIDA-LDC Staff (John Pinkerton)

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notifications sent November 5, 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 29, 2021 meeting by Mr. Hall seconded by Mr. LaBaff. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORT: Patrick Kelly reports the following:

Ogdensburg Correctional Facility: An announcement was made this past Monday, November 8th by the New York State Division of Corrections that the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility (“OCF”) will close, along with five other prisons, in New York State, by March 10, 2022. We are working with community, local, and state representatives to respond and to seek to keep the facility open. There are approximately 270 jobs at the OCF with an annual payroll of approximately \$25 million. The impact to the communities in the County should the closure move forward will be significant. We continue to maintain that OCF is one of the State’s best run facilities and we will continue that messaging with various community stakeholders. Mr. Hall inquires about the potential for the facility to close before March 10th. Mr. Kelly mentions the 90-day notice period that is required by the Governor when a prison is slated for closure. However, he acknowledges that the process has been streamlined, and the state has moved quickly with prison closures in the past as 20 prisons in the State have been closed over the past 10 or so years.

Renewable Energy Projects: Staff gave a presentation to the County Planning Board and a number of other municipalities last Tuesday evening to discuss solar projects and the IDA PILOT process to inform local stakeholders of how the process works. Mr. Staples adds that we also want to demonstrate how we have been consistent with implementing the completed projects.

Clarkson University: We are finalizing the remainder of the CDC bond that was approved earlier this year, where the first portion closed in June and the second portion is scheduled to close before the end of this year.

U.S. and Canada Border: The U.S. and Canada border was reopened to non-essential traffic as of Monday, November 8th after initially being closed back in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are currently working with developers, companies, local communities, the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, and the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce to understand the rules and guidelines for the reopening of the border.

Postcard Mailing: A promotional piece highlighting the availability of the former Newell building will be sent out next week to businesses in Ontario and Quebec. The timing for the mailing is good with the border reopening.

NYSEDC: The IDA Virtual Fall Academy is scheduled for next week. There will be training available through the NYS Authorities Budget Office, as well as the NYS Comptroller's Office. We have five IDA board members scheduled to participate in the training.

Office of the State Comptroller ("OSC") Audit: We have been working with OSC to complete the audit process. An exit conference with the OSC, Mr. Kelly, and Chairman Staples is scheduled for today.

Veteran's Day: Veteran's Day was celebrated yesterday, and Mr. Kelly offers a thank you to the Veterans for their service who are currently serving on the IDA board.

Request for Proposals for Audit Services: On October 15th, a bid opening was held as part of the request for proposals for audit services, a resolution to vote on the Audit Services contract is part of today's agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution IDA-21-11-28: Authorizing a Three-Year Audit Services Contract: Mr. Kelly mentions the RFP and three-year audit contract proposed includes an option for a two-year extension. There were two bids received at the October 15th bid opening. The results were included in today's meeting packet and reflect that the lowest bidder is Pinto, Muscinski, Hooper and VanHouse, Inc. The company is local and is the current auditor. The other bid received was higher and from a non-local provider. Mr. Hall asks why the other two companies listed on the bid opening did not submit proposals. Mr. Kelly recalls in their responses that there were timing and workload issues, so they were not able to submit a proposal at this time. Mr. Hall motions to approve Resolution IDA-21-11-28, seconded by Mr. LaBaff. The motion is approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution IDA-21-11-29: Project Authorization: Corning Incorporated 2021 Expansion Project: Mr. Kelly references the Cost Benefit Analysis and the Project Evaluation and notes that the company plans to maintain all 290 jobs and create 20 new jobs as part of the project, which also includes a 30,000 square foot addition to the facility. Mr. Kelly adds that over the last seven years Corning has added over 100,000 square feet of space to the Canton plant. This project includes manufacturing and environmental control systems investments. He also notes that the company had approximately 235 employees when we began the first in a series of projects with Corning in Canton in the past 10 years. Now the company is at 290 employees with an attractive wage and benefit plan structure. Mr. Kelly comments that it says a lot about the area that we can support a company of this stature by providing opportunities for education, workforce, and facilities that meet the needs of the company. Mr. LaBaff mentions that the Corning Plant in Canton also employs members of the United Steelworkers Union. Mr. Hall refers to the Cost Benefit Analysis and asks why the property is subdivided. Mr. Kelly responds that with multiple projects a discreet parcel identified for each project. A public hearing was held for this project with no adverse comments made. Legislator Larry Denesha spoke in support of the project at the public hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn is made by Mr. Hall. The meeting adjourns at 9:23 AM by unanimous vote.

(Mr.) Lynn Blevins, Secretary