

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Meeting of September 24, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Staples calls the meeting to order at 2:08 PM in the Rushton room at the Best Western University Inn, Canton.

ROLL CALL:

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

A quorum is recognized.

IDA Staff present: Patrick Kelly, Kimberly Gilbert, Lori Sibley, and Richard Williams.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notifications sent September 17, 2024, 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: Members of the public in attendance include Audrey Dora, Hon. William Sheridan (SLC Legislator), Hon. Margaret Haggard (SLC Legislator), Hon. David Forsythe (SLC Legislative Chair), and Mike Schenk (Senator Mark Walczyk’s office)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2024 meeting by Mr. LaBaff, seconded by Mr. Reagen. The motion is approved unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ms. Gilbert reports on the July 2024 Financial Reports, which include investments, project fees, and interest income. Expenses showed a typical month with building, travel and ARPA program disbursements, and other miscellaneous expenses. Motion to accept the July 2024 financial reports by Mr. Blevins, seconded by Mr. Reagen. Motion is approved by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORT: Mr. Kelly highlights recent activities.

Flood Damage - Hurricane Debby: Flood response work continues for two recent events in July and August. A declaration for the July event has been issued, we are still waiting for a declaration for the August event so businesses which were impacted by the latter of these two events can also apply for funding. In addition to ARPA funds, businesses impacted by the recent floods have also been informed about the SBA Emergency Disaster Loan Program (“EIDL”) that offers 4% interest for 30 years for businesses that need assistance at this time.

Alcoa: The Alcoa Massena smelter made it to the final round of the NYSBDC’s “Coolest Thing Made in NYS” Competition. It was recently announced that the company finished in second place. Still impressive!

Canton Industrial Building: BOCES Adult Education will be moving into the building after October 1st. There are expected to be 8-9 BOCES counselors, administrative, and training staff members as well as classroom space in the building for adult education training sessions and classes.

DRI - Massena School of Business: The primary contracting demolition RFP has been released. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for October 3rd. Bids are due October 22nd. The Engineering and Building Services work is separate from that, and the RFP is out now. Responses will be shared at the next meeting.

Manufacturing Day: We are currently contacting businesses and working with BOCES to arrange tours with local manufacturers as part of Manufacturing Day, October 17th. The goal is to get students some front-line exposure to see what goes on in a manufacturing facility and the types of careers available. CITEC has organized the event in past years. We are trying to make sure the schools get connected to local manufacturers to see some of the amazing products made here in St. Lawrence County.

Chamber of Commerce - Business Spotlight: The Gouverneur Area Chamber and St. Lawrence County Chamber will host a Business After Hours at the Gouverneur Community Center from 5:00 – 7:00 PM today.

St. Lawrence Leadership Institute (“SLLI”): We are hosting classes in our building starting on October 9th, sponsored by the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce.

St. Lawrence County Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (“STL CEL”): A collaboration between SUNY Canton and SUNY Buffalo, the peer-based, mentor-driven program empowers participants to operate their small business more efficiently and effectively. About 30 businesses around the County have completed the program. As we prepare to recruit for our next cohort, we will host an informational session at the Best Western in Canton on October 10th to bring together business owners/operators interested in the program to meet alumni and learn first-hand about the program.

Marketing: As part of our Come Here/Come Back Here campaign to promote St. Lawrence County as a relocation destination or a place to bring a business, we will be placing ads on the radio beginning next month during the Clarkson University and St. Lawrence University hockey games that are broadcast on the radio and livestream as an effort to connect with college alums. Also, staff will be participating in tradeshow in Montreal and Toronto next month.

Transportation: Breeze Airways will have their inaugural flight out of the Ogdensburg International Airport on September 27th.

Next Move NY Initiative: We are working with DANC, as part of the \$10 million Award from the Regional Economic Development Councils, to help transitioning soldiers and their spouses to find employment opportunities in the North Country. This is an avenue to help build a workforce pipeline for our local businesses who struggle to find workers.

Chairman Staples asks Mr. Kelly to summarize the IDA’s involvement with the CDL-A training initiative and how it has helped bring a high-demand, cost effective training opportunity to St. Lawrence County. Mr. Kelly provides the history starting with the need for the training as was identified in company site visits and subsequent round table discussions that were held at the IDA and continuing with the work that has been done to assist SUNY Canton with the acquisition of a truck and trailer and the funding for the program that has been secured from sources such as the USDA and County ARPA funds.

OLD BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion is made by Mr. LaBaff, seconded by Mr. Hall to go into executive session at 2:19 PM to discuss the financial and credit history of a particular person or corporation. A motion to return to regular session is made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Blevins at 2:39 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution IDA-24-09-21: Authorizing Allocations through the St. Lawrence County American Rescue Plan Act Economic Development and Tourism Funding Program: Mr. Kelly mentions that an Exhibit A has been attached to the resolution indicating the awards that are being presented for approval. Mr. LaBaff motions to accept Resolution IDA-24-09-21, seconded by Mr. Hall. The resolution is approved unanimously.

Resolution IDA-24-09-22: Naming the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency Property in the Canton Industrial Park the “Brian W. Staples Industrial Park”: Mr. LaBaff motions to accept Resolution IDA-24-09-22, and continues with stating that the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency wishes to recognize and acknowledge the profound impact that Brian W. Staples, with more than 40 years of service, has had on the Industrial Development Agency and on the economy and quality of life for the citizens, workers, and employers of St. Lawrence County. The motion is seconded by Mr. Reagen. The resolution is approved unanimously.

Mr. Hall introduces various state representatives who have joined the meeting with the return to open session, including New York State Assembly Member Ken Blankenbush, New York State Assembly Member Scott Gray, and New York State Senator Dan Stec. Senator Stec and Mr. Schenk and Assembly Members Blankenbush and Gray then present St. Lawrence County IDA CEO Patrick Kelly with a proclamation and citation for receiving the Developer of the Year Award from the New York State Economic Development Council at its Annual Meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn is made by Mr. Blevins/Mr. McMahon. The meeting adjourns at 2:45 PM by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ernest LaBaff, Secretary