

MADISON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES OF THE IDA MEETING

February 15, 2007

A meeting of the Madison County Industrial Development Agency was convened in public session in the IDA conference room, Canastota, New York at 3:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 15, 2007.

Attendance was recorded as follows:

Board Members Present: Richard Bargabos (Chairman), John Becker (Treasurer) and Elizabeth Moran (Secretary)

Board Members Absent: Walter Jaquay, James Rafte and Bill Shea

Counsel Present: George Cregg

Also Present: John Reinhardt (Executive Director), Chris Gates (Assistant Director), Mary Krause and Alexa Dole, (Assistant Secretary)

Because there was not a quorum, Board members present agreed to proceed with an unofficial meeting for discussion and review purposes.

Review of Minutes

Chairman Bargabos suggested that a change be made to the minutes from the last meeting (2/1/07). A. Dole will make the suggested change. The Board will review and approve the final minutes at the next meeting.

Public Statement to Board Members

Chairman Bargabos read a prepared statement in which he offered to resign his position on the IDA Board. In his statement, Chairman Bargabos addressed his commencing an active discussion about the quality of Madison County's leadership and addressed his concern that "continued rebellion against incompetence, exclusion and lack of due process don't interfere with the IDA's important mission." The letter from Chairman Bargabos was entered into record and copies were made for Board members and the press.

Chairman Bargabos also stated that the mission for the IDA will not work without cooperation from the County.

G. Cregg stated that the members of the IDA Board serve at the pleasure of the County legislature.

J. Becker and E. Moran both expressed their desire for Chairman Bargabos to continue in his present position.

Old Business

Chairman Bargabos would like to continue to review the mission statement and work on establishing short and long term goals. (Current Board Members noted that the current mission statement seems old and somewhat outdated.)

The Board Members present agreed that under the previous leadership, the IDA got too far away from the County's direction. The new IDA needs to strike a balance as the County has responsibility to ensure that the stated goals and objections of the IDA are met.

Short Term Goals Discussed:

Find a New Executive Director.

Develop a Madison County Economic Development Plan.

The IDA Board needs a plan to give to the Board of Supervisors to approve. The IDA Board would like to look at other plans as a reference and to assist in the development of an outline.

Board members present agreed to keep the ideas coming and continue to discuss.

New Business

2006 Audit – J. Reinhardt reviewed a letter from James F. Gustafson, CPA's regarding accounting and audit services for the year ending 2006. Gustafson is seeking an additional fee due to the increased work and accounting requirements under PAAA. In previous years the fee was \$5,000. Gustafson is seeking a \$500 increase. The current budgeted amount is \$5,024. No formal action was taken on the request. A Resolution will be needed at the next meeting in order to approve the budget modification and authorizing the IDA to enter into an agreement with the accounting firm.

Directors Report

J. Reinhardt talked to Kristi Trailers regarding an on-going expansion project.. Kristi Trailers will be in conversations with the IDA before completion. J. Reinhardt will be following up with them.

Civic Facilities Legislation – will be ending unless extended by 7/1/07. All facets of current or anticipated Civic Facilities Applications will have to be completed by that date to qualify for benefits.

Monahan – Public Hearing has been rescheduled for 3/30/07 at the Village Hall in Chittenango.

Herkimer IDA – Joint closing will be handled by G. Cregg.

Equine Alley – The IDA has received a number of inquiries and will be putting together a general response.

Empire State Development –Again receiving some direct inquiries from Albany.

J. Reinhardt spoke to D. Bottar, Regional Director of the CNY Regional Planning Board. He would be willing to share his perspective of what the other counties are doing. The Board agreed that he would be a valuable resource to contact.

Civic Facilities Bonding – Contacts in the capital region say that local lobbying works best and say that past IDA clients should talk to legislators regarding the importance of this legislation. Current IDA clients should also talk to legislators about benefits. This issue needs more success stories.

Executive Director Search

The Board received an update by Mary Krause. She has reviewed the job description submitted by G. Cregg and subsequently created a shortened version. The committee reviewed the condensed version and made a few suggestions for changes. The finalized job description will be completed by 2/23/07 and emailed to members. It will also be posted on the IDA web site. A draft of the Economic Development Plan will be started by J. Reinhardt so candidates will know the expectations of the IDA Board.

A few advertisements were placed and more were planned. Free advertisements included NYS Department of Labor and Craig's List. M. Krause explained that fees would be associated with most other sources. The Board agreed that some money should be saved from recruitment to provide for traveling expenses. M. Krause recommended that the Board invest in internet sites and a few newspapers. She will continue to share information by e-mail and will attend the next meeting if any issues arise. All advertisements would be placed by 2/20/07 on the internet and 2/25/07 in the newspapers. The deadline for resumes is 3/16/07.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 1, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All documents from today's meeting will be mailed to W. Jaquay, J. Rafte and B. Shea.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Dole
Assistant Secretary