

**IDA Board Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2026**

**Attendance:** Members- Richard Bargabos, Russ Lura, Steve Potter, Kyle Reger, Matt Roberts  
Others- Kipp Hicks, Amanda Nicholas, Shannon Wagner, Jim Baker, Juliana Heffern, Scott Biggar, Rob Panasci

**Call to order** by Chairman Bargabos at 3:05 pm  
Welcome new board members- Matthew Roberts, Supervisor from the City of Oneida and Kyle Reger, town Supervisor from Cazenovia

**Approval of Minutes**

IDA meeting minutes from November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, motion for approval by Lura, seconded by Roberts, approved

**Review of Financials**

December 2025- year end financials were presented and explained by Hicks. Potter commented to double check the pension number as it seems high. Motion to approve financials by Potter, seconded by Lura.

**Chairman's Report**

Appoint new members to GFC (CRC appointment needed by Madison County Board of Supervisors). Hicks gave an overview of the purpose of the Grant Facilitation Corporation, motion to appoint Kyle Reger and Matt Roberts to the GFC by Bargabos, seconded by Potter, roll call, Potter, Reger, Lura, Roberts, Bargabos, roll call,

Richard Bargabos	VOTING	Yes
David Rogers	VOTING	Absent
Kyle Reger	VOTING	Yes
Russ Lura	VOTING	Yes
Steven Potter	VOTING	Yes
Eve Ann Shwartz	VOTING	Absent
Matt Roberts	VOTING	Yes

Motion carried.

**Committee Assignments**

Motion to appoint Kyle Reger to the Governance Committee, Matt Roberts to the Finance Committee, and Eve Ann Shwartz to the Audit Committee, nomination by Chairman Bargabos, seconded by Lura, roll call,

Richard Bargabos	VOTING	Yes
David Rogers	VOTING	Absent
Kyle Reger	VOTING	Yes
Russ Lura	VOTING	Yes
Steven Potter	VOTING	Yes

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Eve Ann Shwartz	VOTING	Absent
Matt Roberts	VOTING	Yes

Motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report**

**Old Business: Economic Development Strategic Plan update-RFP**

ESD has awarded the IDA \$50,000 grant to pursue RFP for updating the strategic plan. It is anticipated the cost for the new version will be \$100,000 or more, Hicks stated that the IDA has allocated additional funds. Hicks is seeking feedback from board members, Reger mentioned the ancillary businesses and housing needs that will come along with projects like Micron and Chobani, Roberts stated the importance of broadband. The RFP will be issued early this spring to major consultants such as Camoin, MRB, Golden Shovel, and the NYS database.

**New Business:**

Hoffman Falls Wind- representatives from Liberty Renewables were present to explain project and IDA application. The company is seeking the full suite of IDA benefits including a PILOT and mortgage/sales tax exemptions. The project includes 24 windmills in the towns of Fenner, Eaton, Smithfield, and Nelson. The company has received final permitting from New York State. The IDA requested a copy of this report. Liberty Renewables has been working with the towns on a host community agreement, (HCA). This project has elicited controversy in the communities, as NYS has dictated the renewable energy project will go forward. The breakdown of the tax distribution was presented by Liberty Renewables attorney Rob Panasci based on a 20 year PILOT. There are purchase offers or leases agreed upon with 42 families within the towns. There are many concerns regarding both the aspects of construction and financial implications to the effected entities. Lura questioned the benefit of this project to Madison County as it is only going to employ 2 people, and overall the towns will receive a greater portion of the PILOT than Madison County. Panasci offered the perspective of a tax certainty to the towns, schools, and county. Roberts questioned the efficiency of the turbines which are stated as producing 100 mw/year. Heffern stated the reluctance of the communities but she is hopeful to come to agreements within the next several months. Lura questioned the size of the turbines- 650 feet. Bargabos questioned what happens if the communities do not enter into an HCA, the company stated that then the municipality would only receive \$100,000 year in the form of a utility bill pay equaling less than \$10 per household per month. Another major concern is damage to roads, for which the company stated repair is budgeted. The company has received FAA approval for use of airspace. The HCA would last for the life of the project or decommissioning. Bargabos questioned whether the project would go forward but for the IDA benefits. Panasci stated that having both a PILOT and host community agreement in place, it provides both the company and taxing entities tax stability, which Bargabos commented is a benefit. Bargabos stated that the IDA has never supported a project that was opposed by

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the taxing entities, and the board would like to see the HCA and road use agreement in place before holding a public hearing. Panasci stated that logistically the company would have to start over on the models and figures. Reger stated he would like more information before approving a public hearing resolution. The company questioned if a letter of intent from municipalities would be sufficient in order to go forward with a public hearing, the board responded affirmatively. The company will continue working with the towns and give a status update in two weeks. The board concluded they will defer the resolution to hold a public hearing and reconvene in February for further discussion.

Other Activities: Good Nature Brewery is expected to be sold again and finally paid their PILOT.

Hicks continues to work with City of Oneida on the parking lot issue  
Chittenango NY forward activities  
Housing policy discussion- NYS housing is being pushed, the IDA currently does not have a housing policy but considers all applications on a case by case basis. The IDA has assisted several senior and mixed use housing projects, but cannot assist single family homes. Hicks will look into ways IDA could support infrastructure development.

Roberts stated the Board of Supervisors would like to recognize Liz Moran, John Salka, and Steve Durfee for the years of dedicated service to the Madison County IDA.

### **Resolutions**

Resolution accepting grant from ESD motion for approval by Roberts, seconded by Lura, roll call,

Richard Bargabos	VOTING	Yes
David Rogers	VOTING	Absent
Kyle Reger	VOTING	Yes
Russ Lura	VOTING	Yes
Steven Potter	VOTING	Yes
Eve Ann Shwartz	VOTING	Absent
Matt Roberts	VOTING	Yes

Motion carried.

### **Other Business**

#### **Date of next meeting**

TBD/February 2026

#### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 5:35 pm by Reger, seconded by Roberts