

4 Associate Drive
Oneonta, New York 13820
Phone: (607) 432-8700
Fax: (607) 432-5122
www.mmscpas.com



Deborah L. Mostert, CPA
Anthony T. Manzanero, CPA
Mary E. Manzanero, CPA
David E. Brownell, CPA
Jason L. Waite, CPA

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
County of Otsego Industrial Development Agency
189 Main Street, Suite 500
Oneonta, New York

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the County of Otsego Industrial Development Agency (A component Unit of Otsego County, New York) (COIDA), and its blended component unit, Oneonta Rail Yards Local Development Corporation (ORYLDC), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the COIDA's basic financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the COIDA as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of COIDA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about COIDA's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of COIDA's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements; and
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about COIDA's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion & Analysis on Pages 4 – 9 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, and historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise COIDA's financial statements. The accompanying combining statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule of outstanding sale and lease agreements and the schedule of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created and retained in the financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements, but it is supplementary information required by the Office of the New York State Comptroller. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and the other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 27, 2025; on our consideration of COIDA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of COIDA's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering COIDA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Other Reporting Required by New York State Public Authorities law

In accordance with New York State Public Authorities Law, we have also issued our report dated March 27, 2025, on our consideration of COIDA's compliance with Section 2925 of New York State Public Authorities Law. The purpose of that report is to determine whether COIDA obtained and managed its investments in compliance with its own policies and relevant sections of the New York State Public Authorities Law.

Michael Manzone & Scott LLP

Oneonta, New York
March 27, 2025

COUNTY OF OTSEGO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(A Component Unit of Otsego County, New York)

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As the financial management of the County of Otsego Industrial Development Agency ("COIDA"), we offer readers of these financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for COIDA for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. This discussion and analysis is designed to assist the reader in focusing on the significant financial issues and activities and to identify any significant changes in financial position. COIDA encourages its readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the financial statements taken as a whole.

Budget

COIDA budgets its operating income and expenses each year. COIDA's primary source of income is generated through grants, lease payments on buildings it owns at 18 Stadium Circle and in the Oneonta Business Park, interest income on loans and fees for services including sale/leaseback agreements.

Expenses for COIDA comprise mostly of general agency operations including development of the Richfield Springs Business Park, development of and maintenance for the Oneonta Business Park, professional service fees, staff and leased office space.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis accompanies COIDA's financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and the reports on internal control and compliance to help the reader better understand the financials.

Financial Statements

COIDA's financial statements provide readers with a comprehensive reporting of COIDA's 2024 transactions and balances. The difference between the assets and liabilities are reported as net position. Increases or decreases in net position are an indicator of strengthened or weakened financial position.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.

Financial Analysis

Net operating income for COIDA was \$763,720 for fiscal year 2024, compared to a net operating income of \$403,702 for the fiscal year 2023. This represents an increase in operating revenues of \$360,018 and a decrease in operating expenses of \$77,500.

The increase in operating revenues was mostly attributable to:

- Increase in grant income \$761,177;
- Increase in rental income of \$16,731;
- Decrease in fee revenue of \$351,223;
- Decrease in economic development support of \$75,000; and
- Increase in bad debt recoveries of \$8,333.

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The decrease in operating expenses was mostly attributable to:

- Increase in insurance of \$3,778;
- Decrease in computer expense of \$4,656;
- Increase in rental expense of \$214;
- Decrease in professional fees of \$76,513;
- Decrease in marketing expense of \$22,030;
- Decrease in travel, seminar and training of \$2,654;
- Decrease in depreciation and amortization expenses of \$898;
- Increase in membership dues and subscriptions of \$21,281;
- Increase in payroll and payroll related expenses of \$12,982;
- Increase in repairs and maintenance of \$6,978; and
- Decrease in other expenses of \$15,982.

At the close of fiscal year 2024, COIDA had net position of \$6,291,495, an increase of \$790,768 from the prior year. The term "net position" refers to the difference between assets and liabilities.

COIDA's primary objective is to provide assistance to existing businesses, expansions and business startups with professional assistance, tax incentives, educational programs and access to capital for the purposes of creating jobs and economic development activity within Otsego County. The loan funds are comprised of investments dedicated to this purpose and matching funds from COIDA's accumulated working capital. The revolving loan fund is not reflected in COIDA's statement of net position as an allowance for uncollectible loans which has been created for all outstanding loans.

COIDA's current major capital assets are the former Wright National Soccer Campus property, the Oneonta Business Park in Oneonta, the Oneonta Railyard Business Park, and property in Richfield Springs for a future industrial park. These projects are concurrent with COIDA's objectives of encouraging economic development in Otsego County.

OPERATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Activities and Major Projects

Board and Compliance

COIDA's Board, Audit and Finance Committee, and Project Committee all continued to meet monthly to address COIDA's governance and projects, its financials and loan portfolio. Staff prepared and submitted COIDA's Procurement, Investment and Annual Report on time to the ABO, and prepared and submitted its 2025 budget to the ABO in October 2024. Staff continued to meet individually with COIDA loan clients, particularly those with delinquent loans and were successful in obtaining payments from clients who had not serviced their loans for several years. COIDA's loan portfolio has become healthier as a result.

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Real Property

COIDA's 40-plus "shovel-ready", developable acres in the Oneonta Business Park continues to be marketed aggressively by staff. The IDA is now in discussion with a manufacturing company to purchase one or more lots in the Park. In 2024, the IDA contracted with Birchwood Archaeological Services, Inc. to prepare a Phase 3 Remediation report that was sent to the NYS Historical Preservation Office which ultimately accepted the Plan Remediation Report. In addition, COIDA's vacant spec building, also in the Oneonta Business Park, which was occupied by Siemens Medical for 20 years, was leased in early 2017 by Hale Transportation. During 2020, Hale Transportation, due to decline in ridership due to COVID-19, decided not to renew its lease. Staff have been working on marketing the facility to several other potential tenants and in 2021 Burr Trucking leased the facility. Burr Trucking decided to close its operations mainly due to staffing issues. COIDA negotiated with Apple Converting to lease the facility in 2023 for their expanded manufacturing operations. IOXUS renewed their lease from the IDA the building which formerly housed the Soccer Hall of Fame, and the IDA finalized a new five-year use agreement with the Oneonta Soccer Club to provide limitless access to the high-quality soccer fields on the property, for their use for training, tournaments and events. In addition, the IDA subleased part of its office space at 189 Main Street to Southern Tier 8 (a regional planning agency) and the Center for Agriculture, Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) and in 2023 rented space to the International Food & Policy Research Institute.

Oneonta Rail Yards

During 2019, the final generic environmental impact statement was accepted by the City of Oneonta. During the past year, the IDA in conjunction with the City of Oneonta and the County Highway Department re-surfaced Roundhouse Road – the entranceway into the new industrial park site. In 2020, the IDA hired the MRB Group to prepare a new master plan and subdivision plot of the property. In 2022, the IDA had a 3 acre parcel cleared of trees and vegetation. Also in 2022, the IDA had Ramboll Engineers do a feasibility study of having a geo-thermal community heating and cooling system installed around the Park. This study was completed in 2024.

Workforce Development

In 2020, the Workforce Development Center (the "Center") continued its focus to conduct training programs being carried out by the NYS Small Business Development Center, the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce, SUNY Broome, the NYS Department of Labor and the Center for Agriculture, Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE) using the IDA's facilities and the IDA computers and other equipment. In 2024, the IDA, using an Appalachian Regional Commission grant of \$150,000 continued its innovation/acceleration center at their offices.

Marketing Efforts

During 2020, COIDA initiated a new digital marketing campaign to downstate residents and businesses. Several new landing pages were developed along with videos of Otsego County. This effort will continue through 2024. Also, a marketing campaign for the IDA's new innovation/acceleration center was developed. In 2024, COIDA also hired Pyramid Brokerage to market sites in the Oneonta Business Park.

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Grants

The COIDA is administering the following grants:

- \$500,000 in capital grants to continue to move the Oneonta Rail Yards project forward.
- \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to the Town of Oneonta for the expansion of Systematic Power Manufacturing (Ioxus) which will retain 21 jobs and create 32 jobs.
- \$150,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant to begin the IDA's Innovation/Acceleration Center.
- \$325,000 NYS Empire State Development Grant, a \$1.2 million federal EDA grant, and a \$500,000 ARC grant to extend water and sewer to a new industrial park in the Town of Richfield.
- \$300,000 Micro-Enterprise Grant for the County of Otsego.

Corning

In 2021, the IDA approved financial assistance to Corning for a \$14.7 million expansion. Construction was completed in 2024.

One Stop Business Center

After several years, the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce moved its operations out of COIDA offices. Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Agency and the Center for Agriculture, Development and Entrepreneurism (CADE) continue to rent space at COIDA offices. This cooperative venture would allow COIDA, and NYS Small Business Development Center, CADE and Southern Tier 8 to function as a cohesive unit enhancing the services provided to businesses of all sectors.

Economic Factors

In 2024 it continued to be a difficult economic environment, on the global, national and local level. Businesses continued to deal with the aftermath of the Corona Virus pandemic and many were forced to close for much of 2021. The tourism industry as well as support services were particularly hit hard. Even manufacturing was affected due to supply chain issues. Locally, most businesses are not growing, whether by circumstance or by choice and the population is stagnant or declining, making growth even more challenging. Furthermore, with an average unemployment rate of 5.8%, existing businesses in all industries are having a difficult time filling job vacancies in Otsego County. The unemployment rate reached a high of 12.1% in April of 2020. Commercial lending continued to lag, hampering the access to capital many businesses need for growth and stability. Another factor in New York State is the lack of available natural gas supply and electricity.

However, throughout the year, COIDA continued to reach out to existing businesses for growth opportunities and to identify business retention cases. Agribusiness and growth in the downtown Oneonta, Richfield Springs and Cooperstown areas continue to be of significant focus for economic activity during the year, as do redevelopment of the Oneonta Rail Yards and the Market Street area of Oneonta in general. Further, Otsego County hopes to take advantage, in the coming years, of the nanotechnology sectors growing rapidly to our east in Albany and to our west in Utica/Rome as well as the battery manufacturing sector in Binghamton.

At the close of 2024, our goals remain in conjunction with the Governor Regional Economic Development Councils and the commitment to develop and participate in regional strategic plans, to work to attract private investment and well-paying jobs, and to build a pipeline for targeted economic development initiatives.

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The following is a summary of COIDA's financial position at December 31, 2024 and 2023:

NET POSITION	<u>2024</u>	<u>Increase/ Decrease Prior Year</u>	<u>Restated 2023</u>
Current assets	\$ 1,470,235	\$ (225,282)	\$ 1,695,517
Non-current assets	<u>4,998,213</u>	<u>1,163,136</u>	<u>3,835,077</u>
Total assets	<u>6,468,448</u>	<u>937,854</u>	<u>5,530,594</u>
Current liabilities	173,709	148,931	24,778
Non-current liabilities	<u>3,244</u>	<u>(1,845)</u>	<u>5,089</u>
Total liabilities	<u>176,953</u>	<u>147,086</u>	<u>29,867</u>
Invested in capital assets:			
Net of related debt	4,820,466	922,251	3,828,215
Unrestricted	<u>1,471,029</u>	<u>(201,483)</u>	<u>1,672,512</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 6,291,495</u>	<u>\$ 790,768</u>	<u>\$ 5,500,727</u>
CHANGES IN NET POSITION			
Operating revenues	\$ 1,263,148	\$ 282,518	\$ 980,630
Operating expenses	<u>499,428</u>	<u>77,500</u>	<u>576,928</u>
Operating income	763,720	360,018	403,702
Non-operating income	<u>27,048</u>	<u>9,247</u>	<u>17,801</u>
Change in net position	790,768	369,265	421,503
Net position – Beginning of year	<u>5,500,727</u>	<u>421,503</u>	<u>5,079,224</u>
Net position – End of year	<u>\$ 6,291,495</u>	<u>\$ 790,768</u>	<u>\$ 5,500,727</u>

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

2024 MARKETING INITIATIVES

- Continued to build relationships among New York State agencies and individuals, the site-selector community nationally, and key industry groups in order to attract new private investment to Otsego County;
- Developed property fact sheets for direct marketing campaigns and website viewing and downloading;
- Develop a digital marketing campaign to downstate businesses and residents;
- Continued to develop a comprehensive inventory of available sites and buildings for lease or purchase; and
- Continued to publicize Otsego Now activities and successes through a combination of social media, press releases, relationship-building with local and regional press, website marketing and events.

2025 GOALS

- Continue to work redeveloping Oneonta Rail Yards with partners including Norfolk Southern and the City of Oneonta;
- Continue to conduct annual business retention and site visits to existing companies in Otsego County;
- Aggressively market shovel – ready sites at Oneonta Business Park and prepare for the Remediation of Archeological Artifacts at the site;
- Continue a digital marketing campaign to downstate businesses and residents;
- Utilize the completed comprehensive plans for Richfield Springs, Cooperstown, and Oneonta for business attraction and retention;
- Work to move forward significantly WiFi and Broadband development;
- Conduct annual business retention and site visits to existing companies in Otsego County;
- Form relationships with strategic partners across the Region and State in order to promote job-creation and economic development throughout Otsego County;
- Work with Hartwick College, Ioxus, custom Electronics, SUNY Oneonta and the Binghamton Small Business Development Center to create a new innovation/acceleration center;
- Continue to assist in new housing projects such as Springbrook's Ford Block Housing in Oneonta and Chestnut Crossings in Cooperstown; and
- Complete construction of a \$2.4 million infrastructure extension to a new industrial park in the Town of Richfield.

Requests for Information

Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or request for additional financial information should be addressed to Jody Zakrevsky, Chief Operating Officer, County of Otsego Industrial Development Agency, 189 Main Street, Suite 500, Oneonta, New York 13820.