

**COUNTY OF OTSEGO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OTSEGO COUNTY CAPITAL RESOURCE CORPORATION
PROJECTS COMMITTEE
MARCH 8, 2018
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The COIDA and OCCRC joint Project Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:17am at the Otsego Now offices located at 189 Main Street, Suite 500, Oneonta, New York. Committee members present were Jeffrey Lord, Tom Armao, Jeffery Joyner, Cheryl Robinson and Patricia Kennedy. Also, present was Oneonta property manager, Bryan Shaughnessy and Otsego Now staff members; CEO, Jody Zakrevsky, and Administrative Director, Meaghan Marino.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was decided that we will only approve minutes at committees if they are minutes from that specific committee's meeting from the previous month. We had anticipated approving the minutes from the February board meeting, but that will wait until the March board meeting on March 22nd.

CEO REPORT OF PROJECTS

J. Zakrevsky provided members with his Director's Report of activities from February 15th-March 6th. He also provided the members a document with updates on the numerous projects that are currently going on. He went over the following items:

J. Zakrevsky spoke briefly about a \$10,000 grant for a feasibility study of a railroad between Cooperstown and Charlotte Valley. He is still getting information on this grant and will update the board/follow up on a recommendation hopefully by the next board meeting.

J. Zakrevsky advised the board of his meeting with Otsego 2000 on March 1st and spoke of an upcoming meeting that he has with them, as well. Otsego 2000 vehemently opposes natural gas, and the IDA is actively pursuing NYSEG to produce more natural gas for economic development in the area. P. Kennedy remarked that this is an opportunity for J. Zakrevsky to explain our needs to them and see if we can't all work together for the

common goal to benefit Otsego County. This prompted a conversation between committee members about NYSEG.

NYSEG. As previously mentioned, a Chinese company, with almost 300 jobs, had inquired about bringing their facility to Otsego County. They took their natural gas requirements to NYSEG, and NYSEG advised they couldn't meet their demand. J. Joyner recommended that we start writing an editorial in the paper regarding the jobs that have been lost due to the constraints NYSEG has on natural gas. C. Robinson advised that we need to develop a solid game plan, put it on paper, and determine how we move forward and who is heading the campaign. J. Zakrevsky advised that SUNY is taking the lead and currently gather a meeting of the "interruptibles". "Interruptibles" are companies who have their natural gas service interrupted in the cold months by NYSEG and are forced to switch to burning oil. The IDA is taking a "supporting role" on the issue. J. Zakrevsky met with Amphenol, of Sidney, who will also be in contact with SUNY to get on board with the focus group. Amphenol is currently in talks to demolish their old building and build a solar farm in its place. It was suggested to use the Otsego Co. Chamber of Commerce to generate attendance at the meeting and to make local business/public aware of the issues with NYSEG.

56854-MV Food and Beverage Innovation Center. Bryan Shaughnessy, of Oneonta, addressed the board on the proposed Food and Beverage Innovation center (FBIC). He advised the IDA that should they go through with supporting the FBIC, they would face numerous hurdles and opposition ahead. B. Shaughnessy stated that he attends all the Comprehensive Planning committee meetings and there have been many heated discussions about downtown Oneonta. And that many of the members on the committee do not see eye-to-eye with the Mayor and his proposed plan of the FBIC. He also said there are many concerns about the housing study and traffic study. He spoke about the mayor applying for a \$2million grant for equipment and being denied; and then applying for a \$750,000 grant and, again, being denied. C. Robinson advised that the board has no agenda about what happens at the site, and that it is ultimately up to the city and the community what goes there. The IDA is here to administer the grant and the grant is there until time runs out, or a developer comes in with an idea for the site. B. Shaughnessy spoke of the proposed PILOT arrangement that the city and Otsego Now are trying to work out with the 12 tribes. J. Zakrevsky advised that the idea was proposed but when it came time to have serious talks about it, it ultimately fell through and we are back to square one. B. Shaughnessy inquired about the NYS restoration grant and reminded them of a time when the building was going to be a nightclub and was given a new roof. J. Lord advised that an environmental study was done on the site, and that it is contaminated and must be cleaned up. At the very least, the city can acquire the site, clean it up and keep it a green space until a developer comes in with an idea.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C. Robinson questioned the status of the Richfield Springs Youth Baseball Association and our land in Richfield Springs. J. Zakrevsky advised that their attorney, Douglas H. Zamelis, has asked for a meeting with him. He also is waiting to hear back from Andela and their architect.

J. Zakrevsky also advised that he is in the process of getting RFP's for an appraisal on the Pony Farm property. He is working to get the acreage cost, as well as the 3 separate parcels of land.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. Lord made a motion to enter executive session, with board members and Otsego Now staff, under the Public Officers Law, Article 7, Open Meetings Law Section 105, at 9:08am for the following reasons: To discuss the purchase of a property. The motion was seconded by C. Robinson and approved by all members present. The board entered executive session at 9:08am.

No action was taken during executive session.

Later, C. Robinson made a motion to enter back into public session; J. Lord seconded, and all members approved. The board exited executive session at 9:24am.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:25a.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Projects Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2018 at 8:00am.