

**COUNTY OF OTSEGO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
OTSEGO COUNTY CAPITAL RESOURCE CORPORATION**

**PROJECTS COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 9, 2018  
MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The COIDA's and OCCRC's joint Projects Committee meeting was called to order at 8:31am 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, and Patricia Kennedy. Board member, Andrew Marietta, was present by phone. Also present were Otsego Now CEO, Jody Zakrevsky, Otsego Now Administrative Director, Meaghan Marino, and Town of Oneonta resident, Michael Stolzer (departed at 9:09am).

**CEO REPORT OF PROJECTS**

J. Zakrevsky provided members with his Director's Report of activities from July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 8<sup>th</sup>. He also provided members with a document that updates the numerous projects that are currently on going. He discussed in more detail the following items:

- **56899 Oneonta Airport Study.** McFarland Johnson was chosen by the IDA board to complete a study on the Oneonta Airport. Representatives from McFarland Johnson met with J. Zakrevsky and airport commissioners to advise they've started work on the study. The goal of the study is to see how the facility can operate more efficiently, see if there are other uses for the property, and assess the feasibility of the IDA taking over ownership.
- **Richfield Springs Study.** The IDA received the grant reimbursement for the Richfield Springs study from Empire State Development in the amount of \$150,000.
- **Corning.** Will begin construction on their expansion in the coming weeks.
- **Custom Electronics.** A grant application was completed and sent to the NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR) in the amount of \$750,000. Since then the DHCR has contacted J. Zakrevsky several times for further clarification and additional information on the project. As of now, he has sent them all the information they have requested. J. Zakrevsky advised that this is a good sign that the grant will be awarded.
- **Coditum.** A meeting has been set for August 20<sup>th</sup> with several Otsego Now board members, Coditum, and Springbrook. Recently the county awarded \$100,000 in CDBG program income to be used for the Coditum project. It is Otsego Now's hope that Springbrook will run the program through their organization. M. Marino is also completing an ARC grant application for additional funding.

- **Schenevus Industrial Park.** A grant application in the amount of \$50,000 was submitted under the CFA grant round. At the request of the County board, the project will now be for a feasibility study of a new industrial park along the I-88 corridor through Otsego County. The county has also committed \$50,000 in CDBG program income for the study.
- **Roundhouse Road:** The city has concerns over potholes on Roundhouse Road. J. Zakrevsky advised the city he would commit funds to fixing some of the holes. J. Zakrevsky was under the impression that work on the road had already started.
- **Andela Products/Ruby Lake Glass:** The company completed a grant application under the CFA for close to \$1 million to build a new business park in Richfield Springs. However, the town of Richfield Springs is in the process of rewriting their zoning ordinance, which may prohibit Andela Products from building on the site they intended. Board members suggested J. Zakrevsky reach out to them again about possibly building in the rail yards.
- **NYSEG:** A grant was submitted by Otsego Now under the CFA round to assist in the building of a compressor station in the Oneonta area. J. Zakrevsky was asked by the Oneonta town board to attend their board meeting and do a presentation on the need for the compressor station. Almost 100 people attended his presentation; most in opposition of the compressor station. Those in attendance were given time to address the board and voice their concerns; many speaking out against fracking, the countless gas trucks going through West Oneonta, and the need for more solar and geothermal power in our area. J. Zakrevsky advised that there is no energy plan for the county and there is a need for one; who should do it? Mike Stolzer, who was also in attendance for J. Zakrevsky's presentation, addressed the board. He spoke against the compressor station, adding that it is a "short-term investment" and we should be searching for answers for a long-term goal. He suggested ideas like switching the houses in Oneonta to geo-thermal, to free up the natural gas for the larger producers in the area (or the "interruptables") or switching those with the largest need for gas over to geo-thermal energy. Although money is always a factor, he mentioned the NYS Pace Program (Property Assessed Clean Energy), which offers financing to property owners to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on existing commercial structures. He added that by building the compressor station we are "increasing our greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to the problem." J. Zakrevsky thanked him for attending the town board meeting and getting involved in the issues. Besides OCCA, NYSEG, and a small group of individuals, he advised that not many groups have stepped up to discuss ideas. J. Zakrevsky welcomes anyone to the table who can come up with ideas and offer solutions. Although the grant application was submitted for the compressor station, no definite solution has been agreed upon, as of yet.
- **Steiner's Meat Packing Co.:** M. Marino completed a grant application for the expansion of Steiner's.
- **Proposed Hilton Hotel/Water Park:** A proposal for a Hampton Inn hotel near Cooperstown Fun Park is being reviewed. This has the possibility to be a bond or PILOT project for the IDA. However, J. Zakrevsky advised the board that the project is already off to a controversial start

## **NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Although absent from the meeting, C. Robinson presented the idea of an Otsego Now workshop to M. Marino and J. Zakresvksy. M. Marino advised the board that the focus of the workshop would be to align the agency's actions and prioritize projects. It would also be a good time to discuss the economic impact study suggested at the previous board meeting by A. Marietta. The workshop is tentatively scheduled for the end of September.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, J. Joyner made a motion to adjourn the projects committee meeting at 9:20am. J. Lord seconded the motion, and it was approved by remaining members.

## **UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Projects Committee meeting will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8:00am.