

**ST LAWRENCE CO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES OF MEETING – June 23, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Ernest LaBaff called to order a meeting of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency at 8:30 AM at the Best Western, Canton.

ROLL CALL:

Blevins	Present	Hall.....	Present
LaBaff	Present	McMahon.....	Present
Peck.....	Present	Staples	Absent
Weekes.....	Present		

Others: IDA Staff Ray Fountain, Natalie Sweatland, Kim Gilbert, Rich Williams, Leigh Rodriguez, Lori Sibley, and Patrick Kelly; Edmund J. Russell, III, Esq., Agency Counsel. Also Russ Strait, Ed Murphy, Tom Carroll, Bob McNeil, Jason Clark and Larry Simpson.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notifications sent June 10, 2011 to, at a minimum: St. Lawrence County’s newspapers designated for the publication of local laws and other matters required by law to be published; additional local media sources and websites.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Blue Springs Energy, LLC Presentation: Patrick Kelly provides a brief history of this project, noting that the IDA engaged the services of Blue Springs Energy, LLC to create a website (www.renewslc.org) which helps connect St. Lawrence County stakeholders with available energy services. Blue Springs Energy President Larry Simpson provides an overview of the website, noting that it provides connections to rebates and incentives, educational resources, tips to manage energy consumption, and other interactive tools. The site also includes “green” events, newsletter signups, County incentives and local green projects. A link to St. Lawrence County’s site can be found on the IDA website (www.slcida.com) and Mr. Simpson encourages other municipalities to place the link on their websites. Mr. Peck requests that Mr. Simpson speak to the County Legislators at a meeting of the Operations Committee.
- Massena BDC Executive Director Jason Clark requests clarification on some purchasing issues outlined in the recent correspondence from the IDA to the Northern Corridor Transportation Group and suggests the formation of a small group of representatives to work on the matter. Mr. LaBaff replies that the Board will take Mr. Clark’s suggestion under consideration. Also, Mr. Clark distributes information on an \$18,000 radio ad package that the NCTG is interested in running and asks the Board for approval. The Agency confirms that it does not wish to involve itself with individual approvals; it only wants to ensure that the purchases made are consistent with policy.

MINUTES: Peck/McMahon move to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting. Accepted.

FINANCIAL REPORTS of May 2011: Mrs. Gilbert provides an overview of the report, noting receipt of the SLRVRA Administrative fee, automotive repairs and other small, non-typical items. Blevins/Hall. Reports accepted and filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Moved to after Staff Report.

STAFF REPORT: Mr. Fountain reports the following:

- Canton Industrial Park paperwork to transfer the property to the IDA has been reviewed by both the Agency’s and the County’s attorneys. Suggested changes should be made and the transaction complete in about two weeks.

- We have been advised that the Village of Gouverneur has forwarded an application for grant funding to the CDBG for assistance with the Village's water issue.
- Jefferson County IDA was critically reviewed by the State Comptroller regarding enrollments in the State's retirement system. It is the State's opinion that the Jefferson County IDA was, in effect, leasing employees to local development corporations. It would appear that this should not be an issue with the St. Lawrence County IDA as the board members are the same for all three entities (IDA, IDALDC and IDACDC) and the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency is contracted with the IDALDC. Jefferson County had different corporations each with different board members.
- Debris placed on the Newton Falls Rail by Benson Mines has been removed.
- The agreement with the Snowmobile Association has been forwarded to the Association and the IDA is awaiting their response.
- A rail washout on Clearwater Paper's rail line in 2009 forced the company to instead truck product between the Clearwater Plant and the Lace Mill, which is not cost-effective. Approximate cost to repair the rail is \$200,000 (2009 estimate). The mill is working on a new engineering report.
- Mr. Kelly reports that he has been meeting with representatives of Newton Falls Fine Paper (NFFP). The company's initial shut down plan was to restart operations in October, but the company knows now that it cannot reach that date. The company will be severing benefit payments effective July 2011 and is looking for investors. Additionally, NYPA was concerned about the closure announcement only days after it (NYPA) had approved 5 MW of Preservation Power for the plant.
- The County Administrator listed cuts to the IDA contract, along with elimination of other non-mandated services, in an attempt to resolve County financial shortfalls.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee Chairman Ernest LaBaff offers the following slate of officers: Brian W. Staples (Chairman), Ernest LaBaff (Vice-Chairman) and Lynn Blevins (Secretary). There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominees are elected by unanimous vote.

The Board unanimously approves the following: Raymond Fountain (Chief Executive Officer), Kimberly Gilbert (Chief Financial Officer), Law Firm of Silver & Collins (Agency General Counsel). Also, the Board unanimously appoints its staff: Raymond Fountain, Patrick Kelly, Kimberly Gilbert, Natalie Sweatland, Lori Sibley, Richard Williams, Brian Norton and Leigh Rodriguez.

Mr. Fountain thanks Edmund J. Russell, III., Esq., and Mr. Russell's firm, Underberg & Kessler, for the fine job they did in representing the Agency.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution: Awarding Contract to Survey and Catalog Conditions on Newton Falls Rail: Mr. Fountain points out and corrects a typographical error on the resolution. Peck/Weekes. Mr. Fountain reports that, as requested by the Board at the last meeting, staff released a request for proposals to survey and catalog the conditions on the Newton Falls Rail Line. Five firms were contacted for interest, in addition to the posting of the request on the Agency's website. Two firms responded. Approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Blevins/Hall motion to adjourn at 9:16 AM. Adjourned by unanimous consent.

/s/
(Mr.) Lynn Blevins, Secretary