

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY IDA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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 ~ Meeting of June 17, 2013 ~

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM at the Best Western, Golf Lounge, Canton.

ROLL CALL:

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|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Blevins | Present | Hall | Present |
| LaBaff | Present | McMahon | Absent |
| Peck | Present | Staples | Present |
| Weekes | Present | | |

Others: Andrew Silver, Esq., Counsel, SLCIDA Staff (Patrick Kelly, Thomas Plastino, Kimberly Gilbert, Brian Norton, Leigh Rodriguez, Lori Sibley, Richard Williams, and Natalie Sweatland). Guests: Raymond Fountain; Eric Gustafson, Esq., Counsel for the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency; Ronald McDougall; and Russell Strait

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public notifications sent June 4, 2013 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Peck/LaBaff motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2013 meeting. Carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Mr. Plastino reports that the consolidated budget reports look good and operating expenses are in-line. On July 1st the second installment payment of \$150,000 will be transferred from the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency account in lieu of administrative services provided by the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency. Motion to accept the financial reports for May 2013 made by Mr. Weekes, seconded by Mr. LaBaff. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

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: Patrick Kelly (Chief Executive Officer), Thomas Plastino (Chief Financial Officer) and Law Firm of Silver & Collins (Agency General Counsel). Motion to accept the slate of officers made by Mr. Blevins, seconded by Mr. Hall. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORT:

Mr. Kelly reports on the following:

- Newton Falls Rail Line: Phase 1 (estimated cost of \$1.4 million) of the project is scheduled to begin today. This phase of the project will include clearing, engineering, and permitting. A cost analysis for phase 2 of the project is to be determined. Although the Newton Falls Mill is not operational at this time, long-term investment in the rail line will be critical for continued developmental efforts in that region of the county.
- CEDS: Every five years the county is required to update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The last report was completed in 2009 by a committee formed under the direction of the Workforce Investment Board. The review process is currently underway for a potential revamp of the report that will be issued in 2014. With the current Consolidating Funding Process available, it is an opportune time to consider restructuring the next CEDS report. Mr. Kelly will present examples to the board that will highlight potential sources for assistance with the CEDS process.
- Economic Enhancement Training: The county issued Tribal Compact Funds to the SLCIDA-LDC totaling \$167,000 to assist with training programs for new hires and incumbent workers at eleven business firms and four agricultural facilities throughout St. Lawrence County. Total amount expended so far is \$78,000.

The staff will provide a report to the Board of Legislators that will summarize how the money was disbursed.

- Economic Developer's Meeting: Met with developers from various communities to discuss marketing efforts both within and outside the county. As part of its marketing efforts, the IDA has attended seven in-county events and ten out-of-county events so far this year, which have produced several inquires for available building space within the county.
- St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center: A decision from the State Department of Mental Health regarding the status of the Center is expected to be announced on July 8th. A postcard campaign is circulating in efforts to encourage State decision makers to keep the Center open.
- Legislative Session: Two of the larger items that involve St. Lawrence County in this legislative session are the monetization of St. Lawrence County Economic Development Power and the Tax-Free New York Initiative. With the current legislative session ending next week, a decision regarding these items is expected in the very near future.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution IDA-13-06-13: Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution. Motion to accept by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. LaBaff. The motion is carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution IDA-13-06-12: Naming the First Canton Industrial Park Building "The Ernest J. LaBaff Industrial Building". Chairman Staples, in putting the resolution on the table, notes the over 35 years of service Mr. LaBaff has provided as a member of the IDA Board of Directors, in addition to his overall economic development efforts throughout the region. Mr. Kelly reads excerpts from written statements supporting the resolution from Congressman Bill Owens, County Legislature Chair Jonathan Putney, Senator Charles Schumer, North Country Regional Economic Development Council Co-Chair Anthony G. Collins, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and President of the Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence County Central Trades and Labor Council Ronald P. McDougall. The motion is carried by five "aye" votes (Blevins, Hall, Peck, Staples, and Weekes). Mr. LaBaff abstains.

PUBLIC COMMENT: In reference to naming the IDA building after Mr. LaBaff, Mr. Fountain states that he couldn't imagine it being named after anyone else. He continues by saying, "Ernie is always available any day he is needed".

Mr. Kelly mentions an IDA open house for the new building will be planned for September 2013.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion for Executive Session by Mr. LaBaff, seconded by Mr. Hall, regarding litigation with a specific company. The motion is carried by unanimous vote. The Board goes into Executive Session at 12:26 PM.

LaBaff/Peck motion to return to Open Session at 1:01 PM. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjourns at 1:02 PM by unanimous consent.

(Mr.) Lynn Blevins, Secretary