

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
(REMOTELY)
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman
Barry Cheney, James D. O'Donnell, Rob Sassi,
Joel Sierra, Kathy A. Stegenga, Laurie R. Tautel

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Michael D. Paduch, Minority Leader
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Kevin W. Hines, Legislator
James M. Kulisek, Legislator
Kevindaryán Luján, Legislator
Peter Tuohy, Legislator
John Vero, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Steven M. Neuhaus, County Executive
Harold Porr III, Deputy County Executive
Langdon Chapman, County Attorney
Bill Fioravanti, Director, Economic Development
Johanna Porr, County Historian
Michael Torelli, Chairman, Industrial Development Agency
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Chairman Ruskiewicz opened the committee meeting at 4:40 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Minuta who was absent and Tautel who arrived at 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Fioravanti provided a monthly update on Economic Development in Orange County (see original minutes).

Mr. Torelli provided an update on the Industrial Development Agency. He introduced himself to the committee and thanked the Legislature for nominating himself and the other board members to the IDA Board. They met multiple times and first on their agenda is full compliance with the District Attorney's subpoena but also the Orange County Legislature's request for information. He was happy to announce that they are 100% in compliance. All the board members are going through the required training. They plan to have a reorganization meeting of the IDA and to be sure to get the best practices of what is offered and the Orange County IDA as being the best IDA in New York State and fully open for business. He thanked Bill Fioravanti for helping them and noted that he has been very instrumental as liaison with staff and counsel as well as consultant. He added that they had some transition in staff, there were resignations and some changes but most importantly, they are ready willing and able to take care of this on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Hines commented on the recent resignations and asked if the IDA was staffed with a full board.

Mr. Ruskiewicz mentioned the Mr. Bloomer was one of the resignations due to personal issues and he did not feel he had the time to commit to it. There was another resignation and within the next few months they hope to fill those vacancies.

Mr. Neuhaus commented that the Legislature has full power as to who runs the IDA and he recommends that they do not re-hire any of the previous board members. He had some conversations with the Chamber of Commerce, and he feels it is time to move the IDA back to Goshen.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to enter Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. to discuss some of the investigation and personnel issues, seconded by Mr. Sassi.

Mr. Cheney made the motion to exit Executive Session at 5:33 p.m., seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Mr. Torelli if he was in contact with the Town of Warwick regarding the \$2 million loan and when that money would be given back to the IDA.

Mr. Torelli stated that they had a conversation about the Green Thumb Project with Supervisor Sweeton. They did not get into the details on the loan. It is their assumption and hope that once the company closes on the property, the funds will be forthcoming.

Mr. O'Donnell requested an update next month on that.

Ms. Porr was next on the agenda to provide an update on the Orange County Historian's Office (see original minutes).

Mr. Porr updated the committee on the sale of the Newburgh Grand Street properties. He stated that they were in contract discussions with Foster Supply Group. They made some changes, and the contract is presently with the Foster Supply Group's attorneys. The City of Newburgh's Planning Department approved all the changes that would be required for the work they wanted to do on Grand Street. A contract should be before the Legislature for approval in about two months.

Mr. Paduch asked for an update on the Camp LaGuardia property.

Mr. Porr stated that they tried to arrange a short-term lease with a company that was going to build a new power line. They were going to rent them Camp LaGuardia as a staging area for a short period of time which would offer revenue and security for the property, but that never happened. There was one response to the RFP which was a very low number and did not seem to be a serious response. The plan they wanted to put forward was a little confusing. They figured that they would put out another RFP when Legoland opened.

On the motion of Ms. Tautel, seconded by Mr. Cheney, the meeting adjourned at 5:50p.m.