Minutes of the Meeting of the
Oneida County Industrial Development Agency
Held on January 15, 2016 at Mohawk Valley EDGE
584 Phoenix Drive, Rome NY


EDGE Staff Present: S. Papale, M. Carney, J. Waters, S. DiMeeo

Others Present: C. Levitt, M. Levitt, D. Guzewich, J. Izzo, L. Romano, Bill Maxim, Lance Buckingham, Dan Herrmann, Fred Burrows

D. Grow called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 AM to discuss contracts and personnel was made by D. Grow and seconded by M. Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

A motion to exit Executive Session at 9:30 AM was made by F. Betrus and seconded by E. Quadraro. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

A motion to authorize legal counsel to review the current staff services contract with Mohawk Valley EDGE and create a supplemental 2016 staff services contract for $65,000 to fund the additional workload associated with the Marcy Nanocenter project. A motion to approve a supplemental staff services contract in the amount of $65,000 to Mohawk Valley EDGE was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by S. Zogby. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

The Agency received the December 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve the December 18, 2015 minutes was made by S. Zogby and seconded by F. Betrus. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Financials were distributed to the Agency. M. Fitzgerald noted a few edits to M. Carney. Agency accepted the financials as presented with M. Fitzgerald changes.

The Agency reviewed annual Housekeeping Resolution. Annual Housekeeping Resolution (1) documents election of officers and committee members; (2) confirms the occurrence of the annual meeting and actions taken at that meeting; (3) provides for the selection of staff and contracted services; (4) affirms policies and procedures of the agency/corporation and (5) officially adopts the meeting schedule for 2016. A motion to approve the annual Housekeeping Resolution was made by F. Betrus and seconded by M. Fitzgerald. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

The Agency reviewed its annual Public Authorities Accountability Act (PAAA) submissions. A motion to approve the 2015 PAAA submissions was made by S. Zogby and seconded by M.F. Messenger. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

The Agency reviewed its Mission Statement and Performance Measurements for 2016. A motion to ratify the Oneida County Industrial Development Agency’s mission statement and approving the 2016
performance measures was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by E. Quadraro. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

The Agency reviewed its staff services contract with Mohawk Valley EDGE. A motion to approve the $160,000 staff services contract with Mohawk Valley EDGE was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by F. Betrus. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

A request to consider an inducement resolution relating to the Running Supply, Inc. facility, granting preliminary approval for financial assistance consistent with the Agency’s Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, and authorizing the Agency to conduct a public hearing. This request was tabled in December. Dan Herrmann COO of Runnings addressed the Agency. D. Herrmann stated that Runnings currently has 39 stores in 6 states and currently has 3 distribution sites. The goal of Runnings is to take underutilized buildings and repurpose them for their stores and distribution facilities, instead of building new. Runnings is looking for a new distribution point for their stores in the northeast and would like to continue to open new stores in this area. They currently have 27 employees with a payroll of $400,000 in the distribution center. At the store they have 66 employees with an over $1 million payroll. M. Fitzgerald stated that the old Rite Aid distribution center that Runnings is looking to acquire is over assessed. Mayor Izzo stated that she has worked with Senator Griffo on this project and is comfortable with a PILOT on this project. M. Fitzgerald suggested that recognizing that the facility is over assessed and the limited number of jobs Runnings would be adding that instead of a standard industrial PILOT, that Runnings would pay a flat $85,000 a year over ten years with the standard sales and mortgage tax exemptions. A motion to an inducement resolution relating to the Running Supply, Inc. facility for a ten year $85,000 PILOT payment, sales and mortgage tax exemptions, contingent on 45 FTE employees in Oneida County, granting preliminary approval for financial assistance consistent with the Agency’s Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, and authorizing the Agency to conduct a public hearing was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by F. Betrus. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

A request to consider an inducement resolution relating to the Oneida County Rural Telephone Company d/b/a Northland Communications facility, granting preliminary approval for financial assistance consistent with the Agency’s Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, and authorizing the Agency to conduct a public hearing. Northland will be upgrading their fiber infrastructure and moving their facility from Utica to an expanded location in Holland Patent. M. Fitzgerald stated that he has an issue with moving jobs within the county. D. Grow stated that these jobs could easily transfer to their office in Syracuse, so keeping them in the county is key. D. Grow also stated that Mayor Palmieri is supportive of the project and understands the company’s concerns. E. Quadraro stated that the Agency should not support this type of movement within the county. A motion to table the inducement resolution and ask Northland to make a presentation at the following board meeting was made by F. Betrus and seconded by D. Grow. Motion passed 6-1.

A request to consider a request from Accelerate Sports, LLC to extend the agency appointment for an additional year. The initial agency appointment ran from March 21, 2014 – March 21, 2015, and the Agency approved extending the appointment to December 31, 2015. The Company is requesting a one-year extension to December 31, 2016 to complete the project as described in its December 29, 2015 letter. Accelerate Sports went over their original estimate of sales tax exemptions. Fred Burrows of Accelerate addressed the Agency and stated that they have not completed all the work on the facility and the building was more than they had anticipated. A motion to support the increase in sales tax exemption of $320,680 for the years 2014-2015 and authorize a public hearing was made by M. Fitzgerald and seconded by S. Zogby. Motion passed unanimously 7-0. A motion to approve a sales tax
exemption extension of one year and up to $15,000 was made by M.F. Messenger and seconded by S. Zogby. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 AM upon a motion by N. Brown and seconded by F. Betrus. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Respectfully recorded,
Jennifer Waters