

Rockland Economic Development Corporation

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JANUARY 27th 2010 – 5:00 P.M. HILTON PEARL RIVER

Present:

Harriet D. Cornell *
Eric Dranoff *
Sandra D. Grannum
William F. Helmer
Judith Hershaft
Susan Jaffe
Arlene Lapidos

Paula Mandell
Hector A. May
Donald T. McNelis
Mark D. Rothenberg
Robert E. Seaman, III
Burt Steinberg **
Sr. Kathleen Sullivan

James B. Tully
Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef *
Quinton C. Van Wynen
Steven M. Yassky
Jeffrey M. Zupan

Absent:

Karim A. Abood **
Karyl Caplan
Vincent L. DeLucia
Rafael Espaillat
Jack F. Holt
Jonathan Kupperman
William Longhi

Kerrin Mahaffey (for
Chuck Schneider)
John A. Maraia, Jr. *
Bruce W. Mason
Malcolm G. McLaren
Clement Osei
A. Jon Prusmack

David Samberg
Serge Seguin
Janice J. Teal
Cliff L. Wood
Alan Yassky **

Guest:

Mike Anderson, NYS Department of Transportation

Staff:

Liz Cranston, Pauline Drakopoulos, Ronald Hicks, Karen Rehm, Steve Porath

* Denotes Ex-Officio Directors

** Denotes Director Emeritus

- ▶ **Motion:** A Motion to approve the Financial Report.
Motion by Bob Seaman and seconded by Burt Steinberg: Motion passed unanimously.
- ▶ **Motion:** A Motion to submit Marian Rokeach's name for approval to the Board.
Motion by Mark Rothenberg and seconded by Paula Mandell: Motion passed unanimously.
- ▶ **Motion:** A Resolution to extend the benefits of the Investment Tax Credit until 2014.
Motion by Burt Steinberg and seconded by Don McNelis: Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Quinton Van Wynen presented the financials for December 2009. He reported an excess of \$7,892.02 of revenue over expenses. Ron Hicks and REDC staff should be congratulated for this. REDC's budget for 2010 will drop to \$800,000. It will prove to be a challenging year but Ron will sail us through the year.

President's Report – Ronald Hicks reported that we are waiting for approval from the State regarding Empire Zone boundary revisions. An attraction project, whose name cannot be divulged at this time, is being discussed and, if the revisions are approved, they will come to Rockland with 93 high paying jobs. Hicks also mentioned they are working with a few manufacturing companies from New Jersey.

The Westchester/Rockland Revolving Loan Fund's operation is now being handled in house with the aid of new software allowing REDC more control. To date, three loans totaling \$22,000 have been given out this year. Credit reporting will begin in February.

Leadership Rockland's Economic Development Day was held on Thursday, January 14th at DHS Systems and McLaren Engineering with Steven Porath and Steven Yassky in attendance.

REDC PTAC program has been renewed; in the fourth quarter 698 contracts were awarded totaling \$32,927,195 with 4,600 jobs.

Hicks reported that Pepsi is threatening to leave New York due to Governor Patterson's sugar tax.

Hicks asked the Board if there would be any objections to changing the by-laws with regard to ex-officio membership and the Town Supervisors' Association. Currently, language has the chair of the association as a board member. Hicks suggested the language be changed to "a town supervisor in Rockland County." The board did not object and Hicks will send out a notice of the proposal in advance of the next board meeting.

County Executive's Remarks - C. Scott Vanderhoef said that his 2010 Budget was approved but REDC's money had been cut as had all agencies. He thanked Harriet Cornell and Ian Schoenberger for working with him. He mentioned that the NYS Budget was not so bad for the counties but hit the school districts hard. He reported that this budget was unlikely to pass. Also MTA Mobility Tax is being fought at every level and the Empire Zone program has been extremely beneficial to Rockland County but may be difficult to comply with in the future.

Legislature Chairwoman Remarks – Harriet Cornell reported that social services groups in Rockland are not doing well given the economic situation. Due to the devastation in Haiti, we may see an influx of Haitians in our area and the school districts, in particular East Ramapo. To date, they have already received 29 new Haitian students. This influx may affect some of the affected service agencies.

She mentioned the Comprehensive Plan working in conjunction with Scott Vanderhoef which needs a buy-in from CEOs and the community. She felt REDC Board should get involved.

Committee Reports

Board Development Report - James Tully welcomed Dr. Mary Jean Marsico, Superintendent of BOCES to the Board. She said she is happy to be on board. Chuck Schneider, Pfizer's new Site Manager will replace Mike McDermott and the Board voted to interview Marian Rokeach of Northern Services Group as a potential new Board member. Tully reported that there are still three vacancies and they have a few names they are considering. He asked if anyone has other suggestions, please call Ron or himself.

Business Development Report - Sandra Grannum announced that the Annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for November 12 and to please submit prospective candidates for an Economic Development

Award to Ron. An E-Newsletter will be launched in March, either in Constant Contact format or another. Liz Cranston will send both versions to the Board for their consideration. The Constant Contact format requires a \$400 annual fee.

Public Policy Report – Robert Seaman and Ron Hicks reported on the Investment Tax Credit. If eliminated, it would be devastating to NYS. A Resolution from the Board to the State to extend the benefits under the agreement until 2014 was discussed. Susan Jaffe, new Regional Director of Empire State Development and Charles Radier's replacement as an ex-officio Board member, was introduced and she added information that needs to be included in the Resolution.

Ron Hicks introduced Mike Anderson, NYS Department of Transportation as the guest speaker, who gave an update on the Tappan Zee Bridge project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.