

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2021**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held their board meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2021 in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY and virtually via zoom.

Present: David Converse, Chair, W. Edward Walldroff

Zoom: William Johnson, Paul Warneck, Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., Lisa LøHuillier, Kent Burto, Gregory Gardner, Rob Aiken

Excused: Christine Powers, John Jennings

Absent: None

Also Present-

Zoom: Craig Fox from the Watertown Daily Times, Matthew Moses, Esq., Genevieve Trigg, Esq., Alex Curlin, Justin Miller, Esq., Dallas Manson

Staff Present: David Zembiec, Lyle Eaton, Peggy Sampson, Marshall Weir, Jay Matteson

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. Converse called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Privilege of the Floor:** Mr. Converse invited guests to speak. No one spoke.
- IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the regular meeting held March 4, 2021 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Walldroff, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Aliasso reviewed the financials for the period ending March 31, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Aliasso to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:**
 - a. Alternative Energy Committee** – Mr. Johnson reported that the committee held a joint meeting with the JCIDA Loan Review Committee. He said they discussed several solar projects that are on the IDA agenda today as well as the revision to the UTEP, which will also be discussed at the IDA meeting today.
 - b. Building and Grounds Committee** – Mr. Burto reported that the Watertown Family YMCA has accepted our counter proposal to purchase the additional tenant space at 146 Arsenal Street. Mr. Zembiec said the IDA board will consider approval of the resolution at their meeting today.

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VII. Council Reports:

- a. **Ag** – Mr. Matteson said that he sent out his report to board members yesterday afternoon. He said that he is currently planning to hold the annual dairy parade, but is waiting to see if the City of Watertown will approve it. The Watertown City School District has already approved the request. He said he prepared a safety plan to minimize the spread of the coronavirus and has weekly discussions with Jefferson County Public Health and Empire State Development. Mr. Matteson said that a promotional effort to say Thank You to the healthcare workers and first responders will be based on the amount of contributions received.

Mr. Matteson said he has tentatively scheduled a meeting with Doug Shelmidine for April 15th at 8 a.m. as requested by the JCLDC Alternative Energy/JCIDA Loan Review committee members.

Mr. Walldroff suggested looking at the report produced by the Tug Hill Commission for monitoring and siting of solar projects. He said that we should develop a formula to disincentivize for developers using prime farmland. Mr. Matteson said he stays in touch with the Tug Hill Commission since Katie Malinowski is on his ag council.

Mr. Warneck said it's a little late to direct developers to other farmland in the County. He said that board members have to be willing to tell developers no for tax abatements. Mr. Walldroff said that could be a slippery slope because we will be seen as denying farmers revenue. Mr. Warneck said they can develop without tax abatements or pursue 487b with the taxing jurisdictions. Mr. Converse said that the County has already said that they want the equivalent of full taxation on large scale projects. Mr. Matteson said that the board needs to define how they will classify a parcel of land since there could be different soil types on the same parcel.

Matthew Moses, Esq. joined the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Mr. Gardner said we should tell developers where we do want them to develop – steer incoming developers from prime farmland. Mr. Matteson said that Tug Hill does provide those recommendations.

Genevieve Trigg, Esq., Alex Curlin, and Justin Miller, Esq. and Dallas Manson joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

- b. **Manufacturing** – Mr. Zembiec said that safety training sessions are being scheduled. He said that we will continue to contract with CITEC to conduct the safety training sessions in-person, space permitting, and via zoom. Mr. Zembiec said the CEDS update is progressing and should be done within the next few months.
- c. **Marketing** – Mr. Weir said he has been working on the refreshed website and indicated that he is happy with the results. He said there will be a section for board members to enter a password to access documents. Mr. Weir reported on ongoing projects such as the new drum country campaign and the snowmobile survey.

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VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. Counsel: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Aliasso, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Sampson