

St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency
Minutes of February 19, 2013 Meeting ~ Town of Louisville Municipal Offices, Massena NY

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM by Chairman McNeil.

Roll Call/Determination of Quorum: Mssrs. McNeil, Carroll and Strait attend. NYPA Representative Michael Huvane joins the meeting via conference call while NYPA Representative Karen White is also in attendance. The quorum is recognized.

Public Notice: Public notifications were sent February 12, 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. Notification also sent to other local media sources and websites.

Presentations: Mark Scott, Supervisor for the Town of Waddington, thanks the RVRDA members for the 2012 Community Development & Environmental Improvement Program Funding for the Old Town Hall in Waddington. However, Mr. Scott notes that the Town of Waddington was denied funding assistance that was anticipated from the State. He asks the members for an extension for the use of funds so that the town will continue to have the funds available to use as they pursue their project goals. Mr. Scott states that an architect has been hired to provide an estimate to modify the current design of the Old Town Hall to include renovations solely for handicap accessibility purposes; not for building expansion, as was previously intended. Mr. Scott anticipates that, once the modification in the architectural plans is complete, the town will return to the RVRDA to request a modification of its' 2012 proposal. Mr. Scott recognizes the need for the Town to contribute additional funding to the project, although he is uncertain as to how much the Town is able to contribute at this time. Additionally, the Town will submit an application to the 2013 Community Development & Environmental Improvement Program in order to request additional funding for their project this year.

Mr. Scott also distributes copies of a recent posting of the NYPA 2013 – 2016 Financial Plan where he expresses concern over a few of the items mentioned. Items of concern involve the Governor signing into act the ability for Western New York to monetize replacement power. This concerns Mr. Scott as he feels the North Country has been waiting for a very long time for monetization of power and it's already happening in Western New York. Mr. Scott raises concern over NYPA giving \$65 million/year for the next five years to the NYS general fund. Mr. Scott indicates the summary of the report reflects NYPA made a profit which was millions of dollars over budget. Mr. Scott expresses his concern that NYPA's Budget and Financial Plan neglect the needed financial support of the North Country. Mr. McNeil responds by advising Mr. Scott to talk to the legislators regarding the monetization of replacement power (15 MW) and monetization of 20 MW power. Mr. McNeil notes a bill is being drafted in Assembly Budget Committee. Additionally, Mr. McNeil states he will get all talking points to all RVRDA members to discuss with the legislators. When asked about the status of the monetization, Mr. McNeil states that there is no update – it is being worked on as part of the Legislative Budget Process. Mr. McNeil acknowledges that legislation is needed.

Matthew Draper, Deputy Director of the Shipley Center for Innovation at Clarkson University, discusses the business development efforts managed by the Shipley Center. Mr. Draper expresses the need for building business that will drive economic development in the North Country. He offers a tour of the incubator to the members where some of the Shipley Center's businesses have taken residence. While on tour, Mr. Draper would like to introduce the students, demonstrate the array of student projects that are currently in the developmental stages, as well as the types of businesses that are being created. Mr. Draper notes the incubator is currently 75% full. The Center has reviewed about 360 projects and accepted 37% of them. 61% of this number have started new businesses. Mr. Strait asks what role is expected from the

RVRDA after the tour. Mr. Draper asks for community support, whether it involves alerting the students to building space available or other types of infrastructure opportunities in the area that will capture the student's interest early on. Mr. Carroll inquires into the success rate of projects that have started through the incubators. Mr. Draper notes that the Shipley Center for Innovation began in 2010. Due to the recent start-up, students have yet to graduate from the program. However, Mr. Draper adds that they are shooting for at least a 40% success rate. In follow up to Mr. Carroll's question regarding success rates, Mr. Draper adds that he is on the panel for deciding which projects will be pursued. He notes there have been over 400 projects that were not selected for development. There are 22 innovation centers across the United States, Boston (MIT) is the closest, with more centers expected to grow. Mr. Draper adds that they are learning from MIT. Clarkson University is the only New York State school to focus on innovation by having its own center. When answering Mr. Huvane's question regarding the involvement of the SPEC fund, Mr. Draper notes that the Center can be considered a feeder for the SPEC fund; however the SPEC fund does not invest in the Center. The philosophy is to "make a career" rather than "take a career" – the Shipley Center does not take equity investment in the student's projects. However, the goal is to show the North Country is an advantageous place for students to build their business and grow them in St. Lawrence County.

Approval of Minutes: Strait/Carroll motion to accept the January 15, 2013 regular meeting minutes. The minutes are accepted unanimously.

Financial Report: None

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Staff Report: Mr. Plastino, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Center, references the outline presented at the AMPCO (Association of Major Power Consumers of Ontario) Meeting held on February 7, 2013 in Toronto, which both he and Andy McMahon attended. Adam White, President of AMPCO, lent his assistance while lining up 3-4 possible leads to begin initial conversations with companies regarding low-cost power incentives in St. Lawrence County.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session: Carroll/McNeil motion for Execution Session at 6:54 PM to discuss the financial history of a particular company.

Return to regular session at 7:32 PM, upon the motion by Carroll/Strait. The meeting is adjourned at 7:32 PM, upon the motion of Carroll/Strait.

Note: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency will be held at 6:00PM on Tuesday, March 19 th , 2013 at the Town of Louisville Municipal Offices.
