

St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency
Minutes of August 18, 2015 Meeting ~ Town of Louisville Municipal Offices, Massena NY

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairman McNeil.

Roll Call/Determination of Quorum: Mssrs. Acres, Carroll, Johnston, McNeil, Murphy, and Strait attend.

Public Notice: Public notifications were sent on August 11, 2015 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: Mssrs. Hidy and Beekhoo of Mohawk Networks, LLC gave a presentation about North Country Broadband (NCB) LLC's plans to deploy broadband in the towns of Massena, Brasher, Waddington, and Canton.

NCB is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mohawk Networks, LLC. The latter is owned by the Akwesasne Mohawk tribe.

Mr. Beekhoo generally described the company's technology for delivering no less than 25 megabytes/second via a version of wi-fi technology that, based on DANC's middle-mile fiber, will broadcast dedicated signals from towers whose area of coverage will be within about a five mile radius. The company is focusing on using the \$15 million worth of infrastructure put in place on the Akwesasne-Mohawk reservation to provide broadband in areas off the reservation that aren't served by SLIC and/or Time Warner because the costs of running wirelines are too high.

NCB is partnering with Lewis County and DANC to provide broadband to these types of customers using Lewis County's recently-installed emergency services towers, with DANC provided startup assistance in the form of no charges for middle-mile transport for the first 6 months and then incentivized rates after that.

NCB won't provide video – just phone and internet access. He expects that the employment increase will be about 30 people. It takes one technician to service every 500 customers.

When asked what NCB wants from the RVRA, they said they would like a grant but no-interest or low-interest loans would also be acceptable. Mr. Hidy handed out confidential business plans to the five members.

Approval of Minutes: Strait/Acres motion to approve minutes of the May 12, May 26, and June 11, 2015 meetings. Motion passes unanimously.

Financial Report: Mr. Plastino said that there were no unusual events to report in the financial statements for May, June, and July, 2015. He asked if there were questions. There were none. Carroll/Strait motion to approve financial reports for May, June, and July, 2015. Motion passes unanimously.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: None.

New Business: Upon Mr. McNeil's suggestion, the Board agrees to postpone consideration of renewing MED's service contract until after executive session.

Staff Report: Mr. Plastino reported that:

- Mr. Kelly was absent because he was participating in a trade mission with Congresswoman Stefanik in Montreal.

- No Community Development/Environmental Improvement funds from the 2105 awards had yet been paid out. A small amount of money remained to be paid out from 2011's awards – to the Village of Waddington and to the Business Development Corporation for a Greater Massena (BDC)
- Mr. Sullivan from the BDC had told him that CSX had signed off on the Massena Industrial Park's railroad siding and that DOT would make its final inspection of the siding on September 1. The BDC had formed a subsidiary corporation to manage the siding and it was preparing an operating agreement with Curran Renewable Energy. To date the BDC had drawn down \$197,496 of its \$250,000 2011 CD/EI award; Mr. Sullivan had said that he expected to begin to apply for reimbursements soon from the grantor agencies who are providing permanent financing or the siding
- The McKinsey study of the County's economic development future would be completed soon and that perhaps NYPA would be ready to release it after Labor Day (mid-September). Mr. Legault asked whether the RVRA and/or IDA would fund a position whose responsibility would be to ensure that McKinsey's recommendations were executed. Mr. McNeil suggested that such funds might come from the monetization fund (through the Northern New York Power Proceeds Allocation Board) and that NYPA might be receptive to such a proposal. Discussion about specific elements of the study were inhibited because the members of the steering committee present had agreed to keep the study confidential until NYPA released it.
- Staff had assisted 12-14 organizations – to a greater or lesser degree – to submit Consolidated Funding Applications on July 31, 2015.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session: Acres/Carroll motion for Executive Session at 7:14 PM to discuss the financial data of several companies and to consider employment of a specific organization. Motion passes with unanimous consent.

Return to regular session at 7:52 PM, upon the motion by Strait/Carroll.

New Business: Carroll/Murphy motion Authorizing Chairman to Sign Agreement between the Massena Electric Department and the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency. Motion passes 4-1 (with Acres voting nay).

Next meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency is scheduled for September 15, 2015.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:53 PM, upon the motion by Carroll/Strait.