Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC)

BWB Building
201 West Third Street, Jamestown, NY
2nd Floor Board Room

&
Electronically via Live Stream on YouTube & Zoom

October 22, 2024
11:25 a.m.

PRESENT:

Gary Henry	Chairman
Sagan Sheffield-Smith	Treasurer
Amy Harding	Member
Daniel DeMarte	Member
Tom Harmon	Member
Kevin Muldowney	Member

Also in attendance:

Mark Geise	Administrative Director/CEO
Richard E. Dixon	Chief Financial Officer
Shelby Bilskie	Successor CFO
Milan K. Tyler, Esq.	Counsel
Gregory L. Peterson, Esq.	Counsel
Lisa Cole	Counsel
Kristine Morabito	IDA Staff
Rosie Strandburg	IDA Staff
Carol Rasmussen	IDA Staff
Kayla Strandburg	IDA Staff
Nate Aldrich	IDA Staff
Jeanette Lo Bello	IDA Staff
Jason Sample	IDA Staff
Crystal Erhard	IDA Staff
Paul Wendel	County Executive
Nick Bradish	JRSC
Chris Schastok	CBRE
Dan Leary	Catalyze
Matt Effler	Catalyze
Ellen Ditonto	BPU

Absent Board Member(s):

        Bradley Walters   Vice Chairman
        Daniel Heitzenrater   Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Gary Henry, Chairman, at 11:25 a.m.

Gary Henry

We'll go ahead and move right into CREDC and so we'll have the Board of Directors Meeting once again at the BWB Building, 201 West Third Street, Jamestown NY. We are streaming live via YouTube and Zoom. It is currently 11:25 a.m. We'll have a Roll Call Attendance.

Board

Aye – Unanimous. (6 Members in Attendance)

Gary Henry

You should have already received the minutes from the July 23, 2024 meeting and had a chance to review those. Do we have a motion to accept the minutes?

Kevin Muldowney

I'll make that motion.

Gary Henry

Thank you Kevin. Do we have a second?

Amy Harding

I'll second.

Gary Henry

Thank you Amy. All those in favor say Aye.

Board

Aye – Unanimous

Gary Henry

Opposed? The minutes have been approved. We'll move into any New Business.

Gary Henry

Ok. Hearing none we'll go right into the Executive Director's Report.

Mark Geise

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Real quick. I just I wanted to just communicate to the Board that The Partnership for Economic Growth which is housed under CREDC - you know, it's something we started 5 years ago, 6 years ago - kind of a unique organization's public private partnership - is doing very well and, in fact, so well that the Ralph Wilson Foundation encouraged us actually to increase what we've been getting the last three years - to ask for a little more, because they really like what we're doing. So, we were awarded $1.625 million dollars for the next 3 years. I'm not going to steal any more thunder. I'll have Nate talk about it a little bit if he'd like to speak about that.

Nate Aldrich

So, in a nutshell in in in next month's Board Meeting we'll have an Authorizing Resolution to accept that and other funding and we'll have some more details, but really, this award sets us up for at least three more years of financial sustainability for the Partnership but not only allowing us to keep doing what we've been doing -there's even more funding for administrative capacity, operational expenses, but also for that project leveraging, and what we've been able to do with supporting partners throughout the county as well as our own initiatives - providing that you know, required match, share, or leverage portion on funding and really leveraging other philanthropic state and federal dollars to the County. Real quick with that one million we got in the 1st round, we had made a commitment to them for every dollar they give us, we turn it into $4 right - by leveraging, going after grants being more aggressive. So, that would have been three million dollars. We actually turned that into over $23 million dollars and we hope to do that again with this. We're in a good place and again, we'll have some more details for you but bottom line is for 3 more years, we can not only continue doing what we're doing, but even adds to our capacity and keep those community and economic development projects going.

Mark Geise

They say imitation is the best form of flattery. We've had - I can't tell you how many conversations we've had with other communities that want to do this very thing and, in fact, Ralph Wilson Foundation has invited us to speak at their - is it the annual meeting in Detroit?

Nate Aldrich

They've encouraged us to submit as a presentation with other partners at the American Planning Association National Conference, which will be in Detroit next year.

Mark Geise

So we're on a roll.

Greg Peterson

I can get you tickets.

Mark Geise

One last thing we just received -if you saw the Press Release but for the Chadakoin River Project that we received American Planning Association Best Practices Award for the Upstate APA. So, that's pretty exciting,

too. We were able to leverage that plan that we did and secure over two million dollars for projects down there. So, we hope to get those underway in the spring. That's all I have.

Gary Henry

I have to admit when I a lot of this with like CCPEG and that was coming - starting when I was first on the Board and I was completely confused. I remember actually emailing somebody saying, could somebody tell me what all these acronyms stand for? Because we're talking about all these in the meeting, and I don't understand who's doing what and so they gave me a list, and of course, having done it now for a while, I understand a lot better, but it is somewhat complicated. There's a lot going on. A lot more than just the IDA, you know the IDA is the parent, and then it oversees all these other Boards and all these other different teams and it's amazing the work that's being done. I'm not sure about what we're going to have to build like a trophy case - like it's like in the paper all the time. All the awards that you've been receiving. So it just great job. Nate, great job, mark the whole team, everybody that's involved. And you know, I don't think people realize, you know, the work that you're doing and the investment for our county to your point there. 23 million dollars, you know, from that investment, but they just don't fully understand it, but it is amazing, and it is appreciated.

Nate Aldrich

Real quick Mr. Chairman, I would just remind the Board we typically try to include, just because these meetings, there's so much to cover, a slide deck with some high level updates of the Partnership each month. We unfortunately missed that this month, but we try to do that. If there's any other ever questions or anything you'd like us to dig into or update the Board by all means let me know or feel free to reach out to me. We can, provide some other details on many other projects we have underway.

Gary Henry

Great. Thank you.

County Executive Wendel

It bounces. The first time I presented this when I came it was first being - It was like t-da, t-da, t-da – Chautauqua County Partnership. It's almost like its own little ditty when it started but with that -I think it's just so much significance to it - like you said to echo what you said.

Gary Henry

Kayla, do you have our Treasure's Report for us?

Kayla Strandburg

Yes, I do. Kayla reviewed and discussed the Treasurer's Report.
(Nate Aldrich reviewed some highlights for CCPEG)

Gary Henry

Thank you. Any questions on the Treasurer's Report? Do I have a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and the Budget?

Sagan Sheffield-Smith

So moved.

Gary Henry

Thank you Sagan. Do we have a second?

Tom Harmon

Second.

Gary Henry

Thank you Tom. We'll go ahead and do a Roll Call Vote.

Board

Aye Unanimous.

Gary Henry

The Budget for CREDC has been approved. Do we have any Old Business to come before the Board? Hearing none we will consider the CREDC meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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       (Assistant) Secretary   (Vice) Chairman

Sagan Sheffield-Smith

So moved.

Gary Henry

Thank you Sagan. Do we have a second?

Tom Harmon

Second.

Gary Henry

Thank you Tom. We'll go ahead and do a Roll Call Vote.

Board

Aye Unanimous.

Gary Henry

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