

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Members: Chairwoman Addonizio, Legislators Gouldman & Gross

Thursday

April 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chairwoman Addonizio who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Gouldman, Gross, and Chairwoman Addonizio were present.

Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes- March 22, 2016

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Item # 4 – Discussion/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency (IDA)

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she sent a memorandum to all of the Legislators requesting that they provide names of individuals who would like to join the IDA Board. She stated Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce President Bill Nulk, who resides in the Town of Kent, has expressed interest in joining the IDA.

Legislator Albano stated he has researched the Westchester County IDA and learned that they have created and retained approximately 4,800 jobs; this illustrates the importance of having a functioning IDA. He stated if the Legislature appoints at least three (3) IDA Board members (“Members”) Members to be on the Board, then the newly appointed Members will be allowed to possess the records needed to conduct an audit. He recommended having the terms of those appointed expire at the end of this year.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated she would like at least five (5) Members be appointed to ensure there is a quorum if needed.

Legislator LoBue believed an advertisement for IDA Board Members should be put out in the paper. She stated she would like to see more candidates before appointing individuals. She stated she is not in favor of a “Band-Aid” approach and believed matters such as, the structure of the IDA need to be fully vetted out.

Legislator Nacerino stated the issue of the IDA has been discussed in great detail. She stated several seasoned professionals have made requests to be appointed on the IDA Board; therefore she does not believe appointing such individuals would be a “Band-Aid” solution. She stated the IDA is in limbo, which is a disservice to the County’s economic development. She believed time is of the essence because reports are due. She stated the IDA Board Members that have resigned are still acting as Members, which is counterproductive to the objective to the IDA. She requested that the Economic Development & Energy Committee (“Committee”) accept the additional and review the individuals who expressed their interest in joining the Board.

Legislator Gross concurred with Legislator Nacerino that several talented people have requested to be appointed. He stated the IDA is currently in limbo causing projects in the pipeline to be stopped.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated the Legislature is in an agreement that there is a need for a functioning IDA.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator Gross. All in favor.

Legislator Gouldman stated he has been in contact with an individual, Mr. Dario Gristina who resides in the Town of Putnam Valley. He believed Mr. Gristina would be an asset to the IDA as he is a successful business owner.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated thus far, Bill Nulk, Erin Meagher, Stephen Baranowski, and Dario Gristina have expressed interest in joining the IDA.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated the entire IDA Board resigned in January, therefore the Legislature knew appointments needed to eventually be made. She stated four (4) people with great backgrounds are interested in joining the IDA. She stated it is important to appoint individuals as soon as possible. She believed it is important to have Ms. Teri Waiveda consult the new IDA Board Members. She stated the Legislature can appoint alternate members, if they so wish.

Legislative Counsel Clem Van Ross stated the Legislature has not received an opinion from the New York State Comptroller regarding appointing alternates.

Legislator LoBue questioned if Ms. Waiveda would be paid as a consultant.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated Ms. Waiveda is requesting mileage reimbursement.

Legislator LoBue stated she is not in favor of paying a consultant. She stated the last IDA Board resigned because they never received the financial support they needed from the County.

Legislator Nacerino stated Commissioner of Finance William Carlin also sent the Legislature an email stating interest to be on the IDA Board. She stated Commissioner Carlin can assist in the reports that the IDA needs to complete annually. She stated Ms. Waiveda did not submit a correspondence expressing interest in joining the IDA. She stated in speaking with Ms. Waiveda she is requesting mileage reimbursements if she has to come to the eastern side of the County.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross recommended the Legislature send a memorandum requesting that the Law Department provide their opinion on the potential conflict of Commissioner Carlin being on the IDA due to Section 4.01(b) of the County Charter.

Legislator Nacerino believed there was an opinion of compatibility from the Law Department.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated that is correct, but it did not include the Law Department's opinion on Section 4.01 (b) of the County Charter.

Legislator Albano stated once the IDA is operating and the Members feel that they need guidance, perhaps it would be beneficial to spend money to have a consultant.

Mr. Neal Sullivan stated the IDA is a highly complicated structure that requires tremendous amounts of expertise to get it started. He stated there is a need for someone like Ms. Waiveda to prevent the previous audit that was conducted on the IDA a few years ago.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated the Legislature's authority is to appoint board members and approve funding resolutions; therefore if the IDA wishes to have a consultant that is up to them.

Legislator Nacerino requested Commissioner Carlin be approved to be on the IDA contingent upon the Law Department's opinion.

Economic Development Corporation President Jill Varrichio stated there is a serious need for a functioning IDA. She stated at this point in time the IDA needs to complete an audit. She stated to facilitate the process she found a CPA firm that is approved by New York State that can complete the required audit for approximately \$6,000. She understood the Legislature does not want to spend a lot of money, however to make certain the IDA is compliant some investments need to be made.

Carmel-Kent Chamber of Commerce President Nulk stated to make the IDA functioning, the structure needs to be established; this includes having an executive director.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated as Legislative Counsel Van Ross mentioned the Legislature does not have authority to create the IDA structure.

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to approve Bill Nulk, Stephen Baranowski, Erin Meagher, Dario Gristina, and William Carlin contingent upon the Law Department's opinion; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Legislator Castellano questioned if he can receive a list of the former IDA Members and their term expiration dates. He stated the appointment is a three (3) year term. He suggested having the members' appointments be staggered, so they do not all expire at the same time.

Legislative Counsel Van Ross stated under Section 856 of the General Municipal Law it does not call for staggered terms. He stated under the Section 845, a person is appointed and remains on the IDA Board until new members fill the position. He stated the Legislature initiated staggered terms.

Legislator Castellano believed it would be beneficial for staggered terms.

Legislator Gouldman conquered with Legislator Castellano.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated due to the IDA being reconstituted, she believes it would be in the best interest to have the entire IDA appointments end at the same time and stagger the terms later on.

Mr. Sullivan stated in regards to paying for a consultant, the IDA does have income because the businesses that have existing relationships with the IDA pay annual fees to the IDA. He stated therefore, the IDA does have some money to pay for certain things; however it does not have a huge budget.

Legislator Castellano questioned when the terms of those being appointed to the IDA tonight will expire.

Chairwoman Addonizio stated they would expire at the end of this year.

Item # 5 – FYI/Unemployment Report- Duly Noted

Item # 6 –FYI/Unemployment Report- Duly Noted

Item #7 –Other Business

a. Correspondence/Butterfield Realty LLC/AC Ventures, Inc. Lead at Butterfield Location/Information For Putnam County IDA

Chairwoman Addonizio made a motion to waive the rules and accept the other business; Seconded by Legislator Gouldman. All in favor.

Legislator Gross stated AC Ventures, Inc. would like to enter into a lease agreement soon as possible.

Legislator Albano stated this issue arose when the IDA Board disbanded.

Item # 8 –Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:15 P.M. Legislator Gross made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairwoman Addonizio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant, Lisa Sommers.