

**COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BOARD MEETING
June 9, 2009
CCIDA OFFICES
3 East Washington Street
Ellicottville, NY
11:15 a.m.**

Roll Call

**Members
Present**

Thomas Buffamante - Chairman
Joseph Higgins - 1st Vice Chairman
Salvatore Marranca - Second Vice Chairman
Joseph Eade - Secretary
James Stitt - 1st Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Crystal Abers - Member
Gregory Fitzpatrick - Member

**Members
Excused**

Staff

Corey R. Wiktor - Executive Director

Guests

Kathy Kellogg - Buffalo News
Rick Miller - Olean Times Herald
Ian Biggs - The Villager

Chairman, Thomas Buffamante called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion was made by Salvatore Marranca , with a second by Joseph Eade to accept the minutes from the April 21, 2009 Board Meeting as prepared. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

A Motion was made by Joseph Eade, with a second by James Stitt to accept the operating statement for April and May 2009. Motion Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Wiktor advised the CCIDA Board that a watchful eye is being kept on expenses along with limiting participation in various golf tournaments and promotional items waiting for the economy to take a turn for the better. Mr. Wiktor discussed that the line items are very much on target for April and May 2009 as budgeted.

Mr. Wiktor advised the Board that Mr. George Cregg, Jr. and myself were asked by START - Southern Tier Advocate for Renewal Technology to hold two (2) presentations one at the Machias Fire Hall and one at Delevan - Pioneer Middle School. At the Machias presentation approximately 50 - 60 people attended and at Delevan approximately 15 people attended. Mr. John Schenne was at one of the presentations and asked if we would allow him to do a brief presentation to the CCIDA Board concerning a potential wind project in the Yorkshire-Machias area of Cattaraugus County.

Mr. John Schenne handed out a report to the CCIDA Board Members titled Wind Power: Not Green but Red. Mr. Schenne also discussed with the Board that he has been opposed to Wind Power ever since he first heard about a possible Wind Farm in the Yorkshire-Machias area. Mr. Schenne has gone to the Town Board Members and made his findings/feeling known. Mr. Schenne feels that the introduction of Wind Farms will decrease property values in the area leaving less monies for the towns/counties in regards to property taxes because of lower property values. Mr. Schenne feels that only a few property owners will benefit from these type of projects while all other property owners will be effected in a negative way.

Mr. Higgins stated that as a member of the CCIDA Board he has looked into Wind Energy extensively via the internet and also by attending various informational meetings and seminars. Mr. Higgins advised Mr. Schenne that the CCIDA Board will take into consideration all

comments for or against Wind Energy when making a final decision in regards to a Wind Policies to be adopted by the CCIDA

Mr. Higgins stated that this is a local issue with the town either wanting wind turbine construction in their town or not.

Mr. Eade asked why the CCIDA Board is just now hearing from Mr. Schenne when the informational meetings and presentations have been going on for more than a year. Mr. Schenne advised the CCIDA Board that he went to the Town Board in his municipality over 2 years ago and make his views known at this time to anyone who will listen.

Mr. Wiktor discussed the topic of property values which is addressed through the SEQR and EIS findings. There has not been a finding within NYS that has directly attributed wind turbines construction with devaluing of property values. Mr. Wiktor advised that he has done numerous presentations and although there is some negativity out there he has not received a single letter of opposition directly related to the proposed Wind Projects.

Mr. Buffamante stated that currently the CCIDA Board has not received an application for any Wind Power projects. Mr. Buffamante also stated that we don't have any wind policies in place at the current time. Mr. Buffamante discussed that later at this meeting a resolution is being considered in regards to setting up Public Hearings in regards to modifying the current Uniform Tax Exemption Policy to include Wind Projects

Mr. Schenne said that he knows that the IDA does not have the final say in this type of project but that the CCIDA Board is a major player in the wind projects because of the incentives (sales tax exemption, PILOT Program) that the IDA can offer and this is huge to the developers.

Mr. Wiktor next reviewed with the CCIDA Board the Uniform Tax Exempt Policy- UTEP specifically page 13 subsection 10 outlines Wind Farms. Mr. Wiktor stated that the Wind Committee the three representatives from the Towns, County, and Schools have had three meetings to determine a Pilot number (\$5,000 per megawatt) that works for those municipalities. This number is not host community and is not total megawatt this number is simply the PILOT number that was derived from the (3) meetings held by the Wind Committee. This is the PILOT that the IDA would tentatively adopt. Mr. Wiktor asked that the Board authorize the CCIDA Staff to setup the Public hearings in regards to this change to our Uniform Tax Exempt Policy.

Mr. Buffamante also noted that for the individual homeowner or farmer this change in the UTEP would not affect them as they would be 100% tax exempt for a period of 15 years. This exemption will be handled by the Agency on an individual application basis and brought to the CCIDA Board's attention.

RESOLUTION(s)

Motion was made by Salvatore Marranca seconded by Joseph Higgins, **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED REVISION TO COUNTY OF CATTARAUGUS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S UNIFORM TAX EXEMPTION POLICY.** A Roll Call vote was taken with Mr. Higgins, Mr. Marranca, Mr. Eade, Mr. Stitt, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Abers, Mr. Buffamante voting yes. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wiktor discussed with the CCIDA Board an update on the Hoyt/Thompson Bill. Progress has been made, a very good meeting in Cooperstown. Unknown now due to the shift in the NYS Senate. Corey will be part of the steering committee that is working on compromise, etc to the proposed IDA Reform Bill. Meeting next month in Albany.

Two committee wind meetings were held in Delevan and Yorkshire. Very good attendance and proud to say that we have done over 12 public meetings relating to wind with IDA involvement in the last six months.

The third wind committee meeting was held with the 4th meeting to be scheduled for June 23rd. This committee is going very well with a great working relationship and dialogue.

The CCIDA offices hosted the Cattaraugus County Economic Steering Committee meeting, this Committee meets every 6 weeks and we had in Gina Pardis (economic development manger) of the Seneca Nation for a presentation. This group consists of about 12 people throughout Cattaraugus County.

Mr. Wiktor also advised the Board that he recently attended a training seminar regarding the Upstate Regional Blueprint Fund. This seiminar had a very good turnout from Cattaraugus County, representatives, Jack Searles, Don Benson, Craig Marlatt, City of Salamanca, Kinley Construction.

Mr. Wiktor stated to the board that he has been very busy with meetings, networking events, proactive with our clients, elected officals, towns, etc.

MEMBER ITEMS

A Motion was made by Joseph Eade seconded by James Stitt to go into Executive Session to discuss a matter of personnel.

A Motion was made by Joseph Higgins seconded by Joseph Eade to return from Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Eade seconded by Joseph Higgins. Motion Carried.

The next scheduled CCIDA Board Meeting will be August 4th at 11:15 a.m. in the CCIDA Offices.