

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

Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Addonizio & Crowley

Monday

September 23, 2024

(The Audit & Administration Meeting Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the pledge of allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Crowley and Chairman Gouldman were present. Legislator Addonizio was absent.

Item #3 - Acceptance of Minutes – July 9, 2024 Meeting

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**Item #4 - Discussion/Update/Putnam County Industrial Development Agency/IDA
Chairman Bill Nulk**

Chairman Gouldman welcomed IDA Chairman Bill Nulk, who requested the opportunity to provide an update on the IDA's activities.

IDA Chairman Bill Nulk stated the IDA did not request an allocation for financial support in the 2025 Budget. He stated that was the case last year as well. He stated when he was asked in 2016 to rebuild the Putnam County IDA Board, there was \$38.00 in the bank. He is glad to report that they have come a long way. He stated in 2017 they were able to process a nice expansion with Ace Endico and in 2020 they were able to close out the stagnant Fox Ridge Project and bring in the new Brewster Comfort Inn Hotel. He stated in 2023 they closed on the third expansion of Ace Endico. He stated they closed the Sales Tax Abatement process for the business campus at Fields Corners on Pugsley Road. He stated they are at a point where the IDA is doing what the IDA is supposed to be doing, and that is being self-efficient with the fees generated by the projects they have been able to assist. He stated that brings him to why he requested to address the Legislature. He stated that they have been doing all of this as a Board without an Agency behind them. He stated they are still looking to find someone to be on the Board from Philipstown. He provided an overview of the people who are in place currently and the roles they have. He stated they have enough funds to rent office space currently. He stated they have hired a part-time Administrative Consultant who is handling some of the finance work and organization of the records. He stated the legislation is clear that there should be a separation between the duties of the Chairman and the Executive Director, and it should not be the same person holding both positions. He stated he is looking to the Legislature and the Administration for guidance to bring and Institutionalization of the IDA agencies. He stated in their budgets for 2024 and 2025 they have including a modest salary amount of \$50,000 for an

Executive Director. He stated that he doubts that will attract a valid applicant. He stated they may be better served if a qualified person with of a kindred organization were to take on these duties, and then the IDA would be able to subsidize that position for that organization. He stated that is something that could be considered and discussed. He spoke to the State's requirement of an increase in recorded information and documents. He explained that takes up a lot of time. He continued to speak to this matter and the challenges they face.

Chairman Gouldman stated his appreciation for the update, and recognized the great strides the IDA has made. He stated Putnam County has a positive Economic Development Team. He stated he hopes they are successful in finding the right individual to fill the position.

Item #5 - Discussion/Putnam County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Breakfast Symposium/EDC President Kathleen Abels

Chairman Gouldman stated he invited EDC President Kathleen Abels to be present and to provide an overview of the (EDC) Breakfast Symposium (event date: October 3, 2024).

EDC President Kathleen Abels expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to address the Legislature. She stated right now "downtown revitalization" is all the rage. She recently attended a meeting held at the Paramount Theatre in Peekskill hosted by the Empire State Development. She stated Hudson Valley Regional Council will be hosting a meeting on the same topic and it will be held again in Peekskill. She stated this will be their third EDC Breakfast Symposium. She stated that they are thrilled to have booked as the speaker, Joe Cotter, who works with National Resources Inc., from Greenwich, CT. She stated Joe Cotter will be leading the Revitalization Project in the Village of Brewster. She stated moving forward the Revitalization Project in the Village of Brewster will be called "Brewster Crossing". She stated back in 2016 the original project named "Envision Brewster" was awarded a grant of \$2 million that has just sat. She stated Joe Cotter leads with the arts, which is a great way to get feet on the street. She stated she lives in Brewster and there are not a lot of places to eat there. She stated this will be such a positive for existing businesses and new businesses. She stated she knows each Legislator received a VIP invite to the EDC Breakfast. She stated she is looking forward to a successful event. She stated they are expecting people from Local 60, which provides training for the trades, a representative from Local 21 will be in attendance. She stated also lots of realtors will be at the EDC Breakfast.

Chairman Gouldman stated his appreciation for the update and stated he will be in attendance at the EDC Breakfast.

Legislator Sayegh stated she did attend last years and found it extremely informative. She spoke very highly of the professional panel of members who provide a lot of great information.

EDC President Kathleen Abels stated it is evolving each year. She stated this year's format will be the same as last years. She stated there will be one (1) speaker and a panel of three (3) people. She spoke briefly about the panel members.

Chairman Gouldman stated it sounds like it will be a great event. He thanked her for providing the update.

Item #6 - FYI/Unemployment Report

Chairman Gouldman stated that the unemployment rate in Putnam County for July of 2024 was 3.8%, and that the unemployment rate was 3.3% in September of 2023.

Item #7 - Other Business - None

Item #8 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 6:47pm, Chairman Gouldman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.