

To: **EDC Board Members**

Re: **Minutes of June 21, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Present:** Arleen Girard – Chair  
Jeffery Byrne – Secretary  
Dr. Kristine Duffy – Director, Representative SUNY Adirondack  
Harold “Bud” Taylor, Representative, Warren County  
Chuck Barton – Past Chairman, Ex-Officio  
Jim Siplon - Director  
John Strough – Representative, TOQ

**Absent:** Chris Barden – Vice Chair  
Mitch Amado – Treasurer & Chair of Audit & Finance Committee  
Judy Calogero – Representative, City of Glens Falls  
Matt Fuller – Chair of Governance Committee

**Guests:** Maury Thompson, *Post-Star*

**Staff:** Ed Bartholomew, President/CEO  
John Wheatley, Vice President  
Jennifer Switzer, Director of Finance/CFO  
Elaine Behlmer, Office Administrator, Acting Secretary

On June 21, 2016 the Board of Directors for the Economic Development Corporation met in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Center at Glens Falls National Bank & Trust Company located at 234 Glen Street in Glens Falls, New York for its Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors. The following items of business were discussed:

**I.** **Welcome & Call to Order:** In Chair Arleen Girard’s absence Secretary Jeff Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and advises there is a quorum.

**II.** **Approval:**

- Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes May 17, 2016

A motion is made by Jim Siplon, seconded by Bud Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes May 17, 2016.

**III.** **Financial Update: Approval of May Financials & Payment of Bills:** Jennifer Switzer advises there is nothing specific from Treasurer Mitch Amado. She provides an update on May’s highlights - statement of activities and year-to-date. Credit memos have been processed for decreased membership due to a few members renewing at a lower level. EDC has renewed general liability, D&O, workers comp and tail coverage for HRLDC due to repurchase of Hacker Boat property.

A motion is made by Dr. Kris Duffy, seconded by Bud Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the May Financial & Payment of Bills – 5/1 – 5/31/16

**IV. Reports of Committees: Audit Finance Committee:** Nothing more to report.  
**Governance Committee Report:** No report this month.

**V. President & CEO Report:**

- Strategic Plan Update

EDC's last strategic planning meeting was successful; a final meeting/date to be scheduled within the next week. Ed will touch base with Chuck Barton on scheduling. The draft received is fine. Chuck questions if EDC staff has reviewed draft from Camoin.

Ed reports on Exit 20 Project through National Grid being underway this week with plan completed by year-end. A comprehensive look at Exit 20 and new concepts along with procurement process at a couple of meetings will be discussed. EDC is working with Supervisor John Strough to ensure property owners are pleased and will be taking a look at firms strong in field. Aaron Frankenfeld of Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council (AGFTC) along with Kevin Hajos of Warren County DPW will participate on committee.

Ed speaks of recent presentation he and Jeff Byrne attended by Olympic Regional Development Authority to the Johnsburg Town Board with plans for year-round activities in the future of the Ski Bowl park. ORDA wants to improve the cross-country offerings to attract larger competitions and include zip lines and other summertime activities. Representatives from the Chamber and the North Creek Business Alliance (including Mike Bowers) were present with approximately 40 attendees. Jeff Byrne expresses his support of homologation of cross country trails for high school races with Chuck Barton stating all is great for the local economy. Briefly discussed are residents hesitant to change the summer operation in place. Ed refers to a 1964 article and expansion of seasons with Chamber working to drive additional accommodations to North Creek. He feels all needs to continue to accelerate and brought to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and Governor's attention. Developers with finances are needed as well for all of North Creek.

Continuing with his CEO Report, Ed advises on independent film producers touring The Shirt Factory arts and healing center in Glens Falls and the Old Warren County Court House in Lake George as tentative locations to shoot scenes around the 1920s-30s period drama to be filmed primarily in Warren County. John Wheatley has been working closely with the film crew; EDC will work with Warren County for accommodations of crew. In addition to hiring professional actors/actresses for lead roles they are looking for extras. The Senate has passed legislation to include Warren County for a 40% state tax credit for filmmakers making this location more attractive. Discussion follows on huge opportunity here with Jim Siplon's recommendation to contact experienced filmmakers in Wilming, North Carolina. Adirondack Studios is mentioned as a place to work with. Ed hopes to have more information next month.

John Wheatley provides an update on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) now known as the Workforce Development Board (WDB). The change in name reflects new federal legislation, has fewer members and is directed more in sector based workforce. The basic function remains the same. The One Stop Career Center has moved out of the Northway Plaza and is now located at 333 Glen Street with 45 employees. Ed informs the board the building has about 845 workers and is at 95% capacity.

EDC's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning & Zoning Forum is scheduled for Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center in Lake George. John states most of the program is set with presenters with the APA as one. EDC will recruit sponsors to

help offset the cost of the event. The program is geared towards a planning and zoning audience and focused on areas here and north of here. More details will appear in EDC's Insider. Registered attendees will receive continuing education credits. All are welcome to attend. John Strough has attended past events.

Ed reports State Senator Elizabeth Little has arranged \$1 million in state Dept. of Transportation funding in the state budget to improve the Exit 17 rest area. Concepts being discussed include a boat washing station and a farmer's market at the rest area. The hope is to make this a gateway to the Adirondacks, not just Warren County. Ed thanks Senator Little.

Supervisor John Strough speaks of interesting event this Thursday, 6/23 at 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Great Escape Lodge. Tim Montgomery of TIMIT Solutions is hosting and launching a new mobile app - Find It - that is designed to assist with business growth in our region to enable businesses to find businesses and activities more easily.

A very lengthy discussion follows on the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport located in Queensbury. Supervisor John Strough expresses the need for support of extending the runway another 1,000 feet to 6,000 feet to improve the facilitation of air-freight traffic which is something that many businesses evaluate as they consider where they wish to locate. He explains that 95% of the 8M project will be paid by federal and state funds that can only be used to fund airport improvements. Cost to taxpayers is approximately \$6.12, the price of a Subway sandwich. Supervisor Strough stresses the need for the extended runway for planes now and in the future and urges board members to be vocal about benefits. Jim Siplon agrees and feels if we don't do this we are allowing someone else to. Briefly discussed is phone call from Westchester re: new industry and big boom in area by extending runway that can have a huge economic impact. EDC has done studies and is reviewing the internal operations. Bud Taylor reminds the board of this being the end of a 10 year Master Plan all supervisors supported and should be looked at logically. Ed feels it's premature for a resolution due to work being done with RA Wiedemann and no date has been set for public hearing which will probably be scheduled in the fall. He feels the Marketing Committee has been helpful and states an economic impact was done two years ago and filed at Warren County at last public hearing. Documents will be forwarded to Board of Directors as a refresher. RA Wiedemann is comparing us to 13 other airports in region. Jeff Byrne advises this type of attraction helps Gore Mountain as a major destination with airport being less than an hour from resort. Last time there was very little response from the business community publicly per Ed. A question is posed about teaming up with the Chamber. Jim Siplon reiterates it's our mission to develop our community and bring in voices for economic development. This will allow our region to be more profitable and ties in with our film industry discussion. A brief discussion follows on landing of planes and weather issues that exist, freight going through Albany and not having freight and passengers avoiding area because of short runway. The airport will be placed on the agenda for EDC's next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. Airport documents will be sent to Board of Directors.

**VI.** **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 19, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. EDC Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors at EDC Offices located at 234 Glen Street, Glens Falls unless otherwise notified.

**VII.** **Adjournment:** Upon no further business to come before the EDC Board a motion is made by Arleen Girard, seconded by Jim Siplon and carried unanimously at 8:52 a.m. to adjourn the meeting.