

**Jefferson County Job Development Corporation
Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2008**

The Jefferson County Job Development Corporation held its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2008 in the JCJDC board room, 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

Present: Michelle Pfaff, Mary Dudo, Dennis Affinati, Thomas O'Connor, Julie Pecori, Robert Hagemann, Timothy Read, Stephen Duflo, Lance Evans, Kent Burto, David Converse, Graham Wise, Donald Rutherford, William Fulkerson, Joseph Colello

Others Present: Don Alexander, Lyle Eaton, Joy Nuffer, Mary Anne Hanley, John Sidd, Tom Plastino of CITEC, John Pinkerton of CITEC, Terry Wiley of CITEC, Jeff Nelson of Channel 7 News, and Rachel Hanley of the Watertown Daily Times

Excused: Paul Morgan, Thomas Carman, Mary Corriveau, Urban Hirschey, Robert Juravich, John Doldo, Jr

Absent: None

I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Affinati called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Affinati asked all to stand to recite the pledge of allegiance.

III. **Appoint Interim Chief Executive Officer:** Mr. Affinati recommended to the board on behalf of the search committee to appoint Donald C. Alexander to the position of Interim Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Pfaff moved, and Mr. Wise seconded; and

IT WAS VOTED: To appoint Donald C. Alexander to the position of Interim Chief Executive Officer.

IV. **Minutes:** Minutes of the board meeting held April 3, 2008 were presented. Mr. Rutherford moved, and Mr. Burto seconded; and

IT WAS VOTED: To approve the minutes as presented for the April 3, 2008 meeting.

V. **Finance Committee** – Mr. O'Connor reviewed the financials for the period ending March 31, 2008. Ms. Pfaff moved, and Mr. Converse seconded; and

IT WAS VOTED: To approve the March 31, 2008 Treasurer's Report as presented.

VI. **JCIDA Report:** Mr. Alexander gave the following report of the JCIDA Board of Directors' Meeting.

- Approved a \$15,000 Microenterprise Loan for Julie Regni d/b/a Juladame Premium Goat Milk Products
- Approved a \$150,000 Revolving Loan Fund for North American Tapes, LLC
- Approved the amended bylaws
- Developed a committee to address the issues of Uniform Tax Exemption Policies for Wind Farms

VII. **Committee Reports:**

Search Committee- Mr. Affinati updated the Board on the progress of the committee. Staff has put together advertisements and the committee will be meeting today to finalize the budget and advertising.

Manufacturing Committee – Ms. Pecori reported that time was spent in discussion of the current political climate as it relates to the Committee's interest in holding an informational breakfast for our area representatives. Staff is trying to determine when our representatives will return to their home districts in May. Once that is determined, the Committee will set up the breakfast. An extensive discussion developed regarding the increasingly negative influence of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Committee members felt the agency has become disconnected with the reality of today's manufacturing environment. There was also some discussion about asking Senator Aubertine to meet with Commissioner Peter Grannis, a friend of the Senator, to see if the Commissioner is aware of this perceived decline in the responsiveness of the Agency to those who provide jobs for our community. The Committee also talked briefly about continuing our effort to meet with Mark Polanski of the Relph Agency to become more knowledgeable of the issues facing the delivery of health care and the high costs of health insurance. They will ask John Pike to continue his efforts at setting something up. The Committee also discussed the reconstituted Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) in the area and will contact Joe Trocino, our resident expert on the subject to come do a presentation to an expanded Committee meeting.

Marketing Committee- Ms. Hanley updated the Board on the following issues; upcoming Entrepreneurial Conference/Competition, Emerge NNY-we will sponsor, NYS EDC- we have submissions for their upcoming marketing competition, and the committee is reviewing the Goals and Objectives and Budget.

VIII. Other Issues:

Banking Resolutions – Mr. Alexander requested of the Board its input for the removing of Mr. Fayle as signer and whether they wanted to add a signer. It was decided to add Mr. O'Connor as a signer and remove Mr. Fayle from the banking resolutions. Ms. Dudo moved, and Mr. Rutherford seconded; and

IT WAS VOTED: To approve adding Mr. O'Connor as signer and removing Mr. Fayle as signer.

CITEC Update – Tom Plastino spoke briefly on Lean Manufacturing to improve productivity and help businesses improve their bottom line. CITEC has also begun promoting Eureka Winning Ways, which is a program that partners with businesses in a three step process to help grow and accelerate profitable growth.

IX. President's Remarks: Mr. Affinati welcomed and congratulated Mr. Alexander on the new position of Interim Chief Executive Officer.

X. Chief Executive Officer's Remarks: Mr. Alexander added remarks to the CITEC presentation, that as economic developers we need to retain and keep existing businesses increasing. He also updated the Board on his recent IAMC Conference in Phoenix, AZ which covered creating a better environment for businesses and improving the workforce, including training and educating the workforce to the specific needs of the community.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business before the board, a motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Burto. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.