



Auburn Industrial
Development Authority

MEETING MINUTES
AUBURN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wednesday, August 26
Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce
2 State St., Auburn, NY 13021

Board Present: Demetrius Murphy (Member at Large)
Terry Cuddy (Council Member)
Michael Quill (Council Member)
William Andre (Member at Large)
Frank DeRosa (Member at Large)
Robert Byron (Member of Industry)
Tricia Ottley (Member at Large)

Excused: James A. Dacey (Chair & Member of Business)
Monika Salvage (School Board Member)

Staff: Tracy Verrier, Assistant Treasurer
Andrew Fish, Executive Director
Michelle Prego-Milewski, Acting Secretary
Bruce Sherman, CEDA
Rob Poyer, Hancock Estabrook

Mr. Andre, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Motion to approve the July public hearing minutes and regular meeting minutes by Ms. Ottley; seconded by Mr. Cuddy. All members present voted in favor; motion passed.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Bills or Communications in August.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Ms. Verrier reported that the admin fee on the report was from VG Rentals and there was a bank service charge.

Motion to approve the financials by Ms. Ottley; seconded by Mr. Quill. All members voted in favor; motion approved.

Ms. Verrier reviewed the property and equipment list. A review of property and equipment was triggered by questions following the 2014 audit, which can now be answered. She has examined the equipment list and determined that there are a number of items missing. Ms. Verrier said that there is AIDA furniture in use by the City, and some items may be able to be disposed of because they are out of date. She suggested that AIDA may want to donate the furniture to the city and sell or donate some of the other items. Mr. Quill asked if the items are marked like the city items are marked, and Ms. Verrier said that yes, some items were stickered.

Mr. Fish asked if anyone could think of what the sign, valued at \$10,000, might be. It was suggested that it may be the sign at the entrance of the Tech Park. It was recommended that AIDA may want to consider updating it. Mr. Cuddy said that the city has done some landscaping around the sign following some complaints, and that updating it would help

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the tenants of the Tech Park. Ms. Ottley suggested that the hard drives be pulled out of any computers that are disposed of.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Ms. Verrier presented additional bank account options to the board due to ongoing fees and low interest rates with the current accounts. Mr. Murphy asked if using First Niagara would be a conflict of interest, and presented First Niagara as an option. Mr. Fish said it probably wouldn't be a conflict, but Mr. Murphy would have to recuse himself from voting. Mr. Quill said that he would like to stick with a brick and mortar bank within the city limits rather than an online bank, and Mr. Andre agreed. Mr. Murphy added that diversification was good. Mr. Fish said that the board will have to make a change for both checking and savings, and Ms. Verrier pointed out that Generations had the highest interest rates, followed by Chemung and Savannah banks. Mr. Murphy asked if AIDA was considered a municipality, and Mr. Fish said that it was considered an authority, which is slightly different. Mr. Quill suggested that Mr. Murphy could help Ms. Verrier with a side-by-side comparison ahead of the next meeting. Ms. Ottley asked about Tompkins Trust, and Mr. Fish said that they can be included in the next round of recommendations as well. Ms. Verrier will continue to work on getting fees charged to this point refunded.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE FEE POLICY

The draft policy was mistakenly left out of the pre-read packet. The policy will be brought back at the September meeting.

TOWER LEASE

Mr. Poyer said that the talks are still in progress and has nothing new to report.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Fish reviewed the upcoming events with the board.

NEW BUSINESS

AIDA ACCOUNTABILITY LAWS

Mr. Poyer said that the new laws have been passed by the State Assembly and sent to the State Senate, but have not been signed into law yet. He said that most of the changes are covered by AIDA's existing documents and policies. He said that the changes deal primarily with reporting on assisted projects and job creation. He said that all indications are that this law will be signed in. Mr. Fish added that the new laws involve a lot of the topics that the board has been talking about, but that it's not required at this time to formalize in the form of a document. Mr. Poyer said that a lot of the clauses will be added to the lease-back agreements, and that many of the items are hit in the existing applications and agreements.

NEW BUSINESS

AIDA BOARD MEMBER SEATS

Mr. DeRosa wanted to discuss the seats on the board that are specifically named in the enabling legislation (e.g. City Council, School Board, Industry, Labor). He wanted to discuss what their roles and responsibilities are on the board and to the populations they represent, and if it is their responsibility to communicate AIDA's activities back to the communities they represent. Mr. Fish said that AIDA was in an interesting place because it is only one of two bodies that have these required seats. He said it does warrant special attention, and that it's structured this way so that certain segments of the community have a voice at the table. Mr. Poyer agreed that there is no communication responsibility written into the legislation, that the seats are intended to make sure the various segments are represented. Mr. Fish said he has heard very clearly each of the voices that AIDA board members represent. It was discussed that those members should report to the AIDA board on anything that is going on within their segment of the population. Mr. DeRosa said that he thinks that communication is important to economic development. Mr. Cuddy stated that he understood what Mr.

DeRosa was trying to say, but didn't agree that there should be a certain process or standard for communication. Mr. DeRosa clarified that he was not trying to dictate how a member acts, he simply wanted to understand why those seats existed and what their roles were. Mr. Fish proposed adding a board member updates item to the agenda at the end of each meeting, which the board was comfortable with. Mr. Fish asked if the board wanted its activities to be communicated in a certain way, or if it would be up to each constituency to seek out information. Mr. Quill asked if more information could be shared on the website, such as the quarterly demographic updates, in order to make it easier to access. Ms. Verrier said that any information the board wanted to share could be added to the website.

Mr. Quill also suggested that next year the two IDAs and CEDA get together to host a night under the tent at a baseball game in order to get all of the community stakeholders together.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:23 pm by Mr. Quill; seconded by Ms. Ottley. All members present voted in favor; meeting adjourned.