

PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 1998 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Private Industry Council was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:40 PM, Wednesday, December 2, 1998 at the Lobster House Restaurant, Norwood, NY.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Douglas Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Greg Davis, Richard DeLaPorte, Ron McDougall, Jim McFaddin, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan,

Members Absent: Maureen Buck, Dick Callan, Linda Randi, Nicole Scott, and Robert Snider

Others Present: Edmund Russell, Raymond Fountain, Larry Fetcie, Natalie Haggart, Steve House, John Manson, Connie Martin, and David Williams of the Office of Economic Development; Tony LaGatta, NYSDOL

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. McFaddin moved, seconded by Mr. Backus that the minutes of the September 30, 1998 meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Following brief comments by Mr. Russell and Mr. Fountain, Mr. McFaddin moved, seconded by Ms. Caswell, that the financial report be received. Passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. DeLaPorte, Chair of the Nominating Committee, provided the Council members with an entertaining report of the committee's investigative efforts and placed the following slate of officers in nomination:

Chairman	Lynn Blevins
Vice Chairman	Ron McDougall
Secretary	Joanne Novak
Treasurer	Sue Caswell

There were no nominations from the floor. Mr. Beachard moved, seconded by Mr. McFaddin that the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee be elected. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Modifying JTPA Budgets:

Mr. Russell advised the Council that the resolution basically closed out budgets for PY 1996 and PY 1997. Ms. Caswell moved, seconded by Mr. McFaddin that the resolution modifying JTPA budgets be approved. Passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins advised the Council that staff had made six reservations for the annual NAPIC Conference to be held February 28, and March 1 & 2, 1999 in Washington, D.C. He indicated that Mr. Russell and Mr. Fountain would attend and that the other four spaces would be open first for Council officers and then to other Council members if an officer could not attend. He asked Council officers to advise Mr. Russell or Mr. Fountain by Christmas if they were not able to attend the conference.

Mr. Blevins advised Council members that Connie Martin was leaving the Office of Economic Development on December 10th to take the position of Commissioner of Jurors for St. Lawrence County. Ms. Caswell presented a dried flower arrangement and the Council expressed its thanks to Ms. Martin.

STAFF REPORT

Job Club: Mr. House introduced Mr. Larry Fetcie, Employment and Training Counselor who gave an interesting and informative report on the Job Club which the Office of Economic Development staff runs for eligible job seekers. A synopsis of Mr. Fetcie's report is attached to these Minutes and made part hereof.

Workforce Development Board: Mr. Russell advised the Council that the Board of Legislators would act on Monday, December 7th to transition the Private Industry Council into a Workforce Development Board and that there would be new members coming on board in January.

County Marketing Group: Mr. Russell reported that, in all likelihood, the IDA would adopt a budget on December 16th which includes a \$100,000 marketing budget for St. Lawrence County. He advised that the marketing budget is usually \$15,000 to \$25,000, but that the IDA has agreed to increase it to \$100,000 to assist the County Marketing Group in its efforts to market St. Lawrence County. The Group has been meeting bi-weekly in an effort to develop hard information on the County's labor force (surplus labor, absenteeism rates, etc.). He indicated that potentially the IDA would expend \$300,000 on County marketing efforts over the next three years. Previously Canada has been the marketing target, but now

the Group plans to also reach out to areas of the United States. He indicated that he would bring the marketing issue back to the Council once the IDA passes its budget. Ms. Novak stated that she feels strongly that marketing potential for St. Lawrence County is tied directly to the North Country's efforts to obtain a four-lane highway. Mr. Russell the briefly described the activities of the Highway Corridor Task Force, indicating that \$1,500,000 has been set aside for a study of highways. Mr. McFaddin added that an additional \$500,000 will be expended for a study of bridges. Considerable discussion followed concerning the transportation/marketing issues.

CSX Railroad: Mr. Russell reported that he had met twice with representatives of CSX who will be taking control of the ConRail line in March of 1999 which will allow them to move freight from Montreal to Orlando. Mr. Russell is setting up a meeting between CSX representatives and representatives of the St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis County IDAs. He believes that CSX is planning to grow business in this area

CREW Program: Mr. Russell reported that the CREW Program was completed as of October 31st. He indicated that Mr. House deserved a lot of credit for managing the program. Final figures indicate that \$1,300,000 was expended to employ 300 people on crews that served 80 work sites throughout the County. He added that there had been no serious injuries.

One Stop Front Door: In response to a question from Mr. Beachard, Mr. Russell reported that an agreement had been made regarding the first floor space for the One Stop Career Center and that more information would be available for the January Council meeting. He indicated that the Department of Social Services would be moving people into the One Stop over the next few weeks.

Special Recognition: Mr. Russell reported the Mr. Fountain would be recognized at Monday night's Board of Legislators' meeting for the excellent work he has done on the County Budget process over the last three years.

Build Now-NY: Mr. Russell reported that the IDA had submitted an application to the State's Build Now program on behalf of the Gouverneur Industrial Park. The State will select 30 sites around the State, which will be pre-permitted in 5 categories. He noted that 3 of the 5 categories require access to a U.S. interstate highway within a 20-mile radius. After OED staff contacted them, the State approved Canadian Highway 401 as an acceptable substitute for a U.S. interstate. This allowed Ogdensburg and Massena to submit applications.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blevins advised Council members that the schedule of meetings for the 4th Wednesday of each month would be sent out with the next mailing, but that the next Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 27th. On motion of Ms. Caswell, the Council meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue E. Caswell, Secretary