

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 1999 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Lynn Blevins at 6:35 PM, Wednesday, November 3, 1999 at the Best Western University Inn, Canton, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Greg Davis, John Deal, Dick DeLaPorte, Donald Hooper, Joseph Kennedy, Joanne Novak, Peter Phelan, Linda Randi

Members Absent: Genevieve Baxter, Doug Beachard, Robert LaClair, Jr., Ron McDougall, James McFaddin, Walt Paul, Bob Snider

Others Present: Jim Connor, Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., Natalie Haggart, John Manson, Edmund J. Russell, Jr., David Williams and Gretchen Wood of the Office of Economic Development; Anthony LaGatta of the New York State Department of Labor

MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Phelan and seconded by Ms. Randi, the minutes of the September 22, 1999 meeting were accepted. Approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Blevins briefly noted to the Board that there will be two meetings during the month of November—November 3 due to Mr. Russell's unavailability in October and November 30. Mr. Blevins then announced that Mr. DeLaPorte was leaving the Workforce Development Board and venturing South. He thanked Mr. DeLaPorte for all of his years of service and wished him well. Finally, Mr. Blevins asked for the Board to be thinking about their availability for the NAPIC conference in Washington to be held February 28 through March 2, 2000.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Fountain briefly stated that the monies for Fiscal Year 1997 have been expended. Mr. Blevins asked why the applicant numbers were higher than those termed. Mr. Fountain explained that the information does not appear on the report until a participant enters employment or is termed. Mr. Phelan moved, seconded by Ms. Caswell. The Financial Report for September of 1999 was accepted; passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Although there was no old business on the agenda, Mr. Russell wanted to update the Board on the Appleton/Newton Falls paper mill. Mr. Russell began by referring to Newton Falls' first layoff in 1997 where ninety people lost their jobs. At that time, sixty-three people were enrolled in the JTPA program. Eleven are still enrolled, nine of whom are in classroom training. Of the forty-eight that exited the program, all entered employment. Mr. Russell then stated that he and Doug Schelleng from Empire State Development met with the CEO of Appleton, Mike Van Eyck, to discuss the mill. Mr. Van Eyck stated that three firms have looked at the mill and that

he has received more correspondence of interest. Mr. Russell went on to say that the Number Four machine will remain in production after the December 13 layoff. A purchaser of the mill would likely run the Number Four machine during the early stages and make a decision about the Number Three machine later. A discussion then ensued regarding the economic impact that this will have on the community and railroad. Mr. Russell stated that he will keep the Board apprised of events.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Establishing a Worker Adjustment Discretionary Budget

Mr. Fountain explained that a grant was originally submitted to assist individuals laid off from firms other than Appleton, but that the nature of the grant allows the Department to serve Appleton employees. The grant money will be used for classroom training and on-the-job training. Mr. Fountain said that the Office of Economic Development will hire three temporary counselors to conduct assessment. Once that is done, the other Partners would become involved. Mr. Daddario noted that his union has their own training centers and asked if the One-Stop would be willing to utilize their services. Mr. Fountain indicated that the One-Stop would be happy to make room for these trainers. Mr. Backus then asked if someone could go to school for two or more years and still receive Unemployment Insurance. Mr. Fountain stated that that was only applicable through NAFTA, otherwise the cut-off was at 26 weeks. In order for a dislocated worker participant to be eligible for needs related payments, he/she must be enrolled in a JTPA training or education program prior to the 13th week of Unemployment. Mr. Fountain then stated that the Office of Economic Development helps pay for what PELL and TAP will not. Dr. Kennedy then stated that SUNY Canton will start programs whenever we need them to. Mr. Daddario urged the Board to consider representatives from major employers in St. Lawrence County to be appointed to the Board vacancies. Mr. Daddario moved, seconded by Mr. Backus. Resolution No. 99-11-13 of the Workforce Development Board was passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Fountain reported that the Partners have been meeting once a month and are currently working on a Memorandum of Understanding. He stated that the hardest part of their discussions is the cost allocation. Mr. Fountain said that JTPA, DOSS and BOCES are currently the organizations who are carrying the financial burden. Under the Workforce Investment Act legislation everyone is to share in the cost of the operation of the One-Stop. Administrative costs must also be accounted for; office space and phone costs are currently being looked at. Mr. Phelan added that some of the Partners are not used to paying or possibly may not have the ability to pay. Mr. Fountain stated that because of their lack of funding, some of the Partners could walk away from the One-Stop.

Mr. Russell reviewed the Youth Council outline. He stated that there are four potential roles for the Youth Council, but one is very clear viz. the requirement that the Youth Council prepare that portion of the five-year plan as it pertains to Youth. Mr. Blevins stated that he received a letter from Joanne Sevick, Director of the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau, asking about who are to be the members of the Youth Council and what they are to provide. Mr. Russell recommended that the Board look at the requirements and required categories under the legislation to not only answer those questions, but also questions such as the size of the Council. He recommended that

the Workforce Development Board structure the Youth Council as an advisory body and that the Youth Council be kept to the minimum allowable size. Mr. Backus asked if the Council brings their own money to the table. Mr. Connor replied that the Council money is provided through the Workforce Investment Act. Without a Youth Council, Mr. Connor reported, the Workforce Development Board would not be in compliance with the authorizing legislation. Mr. Blevins asked staff to make recommendations regarding this important issue.

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blevins thanked Board members for attending the meeting. On motion of Mr. Daddario and seconded by Ms. Caswell, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Novak, Esq.