

March 4, 2019

The special meeting of the City of Port Jervis Industrial Development Agency (IDA) was held in the Council Chambers, 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis, New York on Monday March 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Board members Robert Schultz, Thomas McCarron, Donn Copa, James Hinkley and Council Liaison Maria Mann were present. Mayor Kelly Decker and City Clerk Treasurer Robin Waizenegger were also present. Michael McCarthy was absent.

Attendance

Board President Robert Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mayor Kelly Decker introduced Vincent Cozzolino and Laurie Villasuso from the Orange County Incubator Program which is a program under the control of the Orange County IDA.

Mr. Cozzolino indicated that he was here at the request of several political members who would like to see something done in Port Jervis.

Mr. Cozzolino reviewed the Accelerator program for the members present. He explained that they have been working in Middletown and Newburgh to create industrial clusters. The IDA invests in buildings and equipment then brings in start-up businesses to occupy the space and create jobs. They also supply professional support services through a network of volunteer professionals associated with the incubator program. In Newburgh they have a fashion industry cluster with varied fashion design companies for pocket books, leisure wear, on-demand athletic wear and a toothbrush manufacturer which uses sewing machine technology to produce their items. The Orange County IDA also provides support by providing training.

There is a second medical technology cluster in Middletown with 13 companies and 20 jobs located at the Touro Medical College building.

The incubator program assists with MWBE qualifications, government contracting, business planning, space remodeling, equipment needs, process flows and meeting regulatory requirements. It was noted that the majority of these small businesses are MWBE businesses.

They are also now targeting businesses owned by individuals under age 24. This is being done to assist keeping college graduates in NYS. They also are looking to the Hemp and CBD oil market to fill the Warwick industrial park with the base of raw materials from local farmers.

They now want to move into the Port Jervis area, potentially targeting healthy or outdoor living products. They want to work with the Port Jervis IDA to waive or contract with the Orange County IDA to provide assistance as the Port Jervis IDA does not have the available financial resources to do this level of support in our community.

Laurie detailed for the committee what they do to compete with other states to attract companies. Part of the benefits is ease of use through local planning which is why they need the involvement of the local officials.

The Orange County accelerator is requesting that the Port Jervis IDA defer to them for an initial manufacturing firm of healthy products that has identified a Port Jervis site as a possible desired location.

They also explained their process of an Accelerator business without walls where they can invest in existing businesses to expand including those that are not property based.

Mayor Decker asked what the Orange County IDA wants and they indicated that they simply need a letter of support from the IDA. Chariman Robert Schultz asked Vincent and Laurie to prepare a letter for our signature in support of their efforts in Port Jervis. They agreed to do that.

Both representatives gave the board a description of their personal backgrounds and qualifications. They also spoke about the lack of success working with state educational institutions and some agencies, but they have had success working with some limited non-profits as labor sources.

New/Old Business: None

Having no other business a motion was made to adjourn by James Hinkley, seconded by Donn Copa.

AYE 4 NAY 0 ABSENT 1 (McCarthy) Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday April 15th at 6pm in the Council Room.