

Watertown Local Development Corporation
Thursday, September 23, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Watertown Local Development Corporation Board of Directors monthly meeting was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at the WLDC office located at 82 Public Square.

Present – President Jeff Smith, Charles Capone, Steve Hunt, Michael Pierce, Dave Zembiec, Jennifer Voss, Designee

Excused – Michael Lumbis, Melinda Gault

Others Present - Craig Fox, Watertown Daily Times

Staff - Donald Rutherford

Call to Order – President Smith called the meeting to order at 8:35a.m.

Minutes – Minutes of the August 26, 2021 meeting were not included in the board member packets due to internet issues. Kylee is out this week, but Mr. Rutherford will have her send them when she gets back and they will need to be adopted at the October 28, 2021 board meeting.

Financial Report- Mr. Capone present the August financial statement, followed by Mr. Rutherford reviewing the customer loan report. Mr. Rutherford stated that most of the customers are doing well, especially given the circumstances in the business world right now. Vina Bonner continues to be a concern with her delinquency and is being served a judgement. Motion made by Mr. Pierce to accept the August financials and customer loan report, seconded by Mr. Zembiec.

Loan Review Committee – Mr. Capone presented the two loan requests with a quorum of the board. The two loan requests were presented as follows:

Patricia Johnson – \$245,000 loan with a term of 15 years at a fixed interest rate of 5%. The funds will be used to purchase 426, 430 and 440 State Street in order to expand her business.

Motion to accept the loan request as presented made by Mr. Zembiec. Seconded by Mr. Hunt.

Freeman Bus –\$100,000 bridge loan financing with a term of 1 year at a rate of 5%. The original loan request was for \$200,000 but the business subsequently received an EIDL payment to assist with working capital, so the amended request is for \$100,000. The funds will be used as working capital to bridge the receipt of approximately \$280,000 in ERC tax credit refund. The working capital will allow them to fund payroll and insurance.

Motion to accept the loan request as presented made by Mr. Pierce. Seconded by Mr. Capone.

New Business: None

Old Business:

CCIP Rail Spur: There's been an issue with Army Corps of Engineers and wetland permitting which is slowing down Renzi's expansion. A spring start date is now more likely for the construction to begin.

There was also discussion about using rail spur for other businesses as well. Board members are going to reach out to other businesses and try to get an idea of who would use rail spur if made available to them.

CARES Act Small Business Relief update: 37 applications have been approved, 4 new were recently received and will be reviewed by the committee next week.

Still waiting to hear announcement on Markey NY application for block parties.

Executive Session- Mr. Zembiec made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss proposed or pending litigation, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Motion to come out of executive session made by Mr. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2021

Adjournment: Motion was made by Mr. Pierce to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m., seconded by Mr. Hunt. All in favor. Carried.