

# ORANGE COUNTY FUNDING CORPORATION

## MINUTES

September 18, 2014

A regular meeting of the Orange County Funding Corporation was convened in public session on September 18, 2014 at 3:02 P.M. at the Orange County Executive Office in Goshen, New York.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Robert Armistead, and upon roll being called, the following were:

PRESENT: Robert Armistead, Mary Ellen Rogulski, Henry VanLeeuwen, Stephen Brescia, Russell Vernon, John Steinberg

ABSENT: Robert Schreibeis

ALSO PRESENT: James Petro – Executive Director  
Laurie Villasuso – Associate Executive Director  
Kevin Dowd – IDA Attorney  
James Walsh – Times Herald Record  
William Kaplan – Newburgh Armory Unity Center  
Vincent Cozzolino – Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing  
Virginia Moore – Daughters of the American Revolution

Chairman Armistead calls to order the regular meeting for the Orange County Funding Corporation, September 18, 2014. Board consists of six members. There is a quorum.

Review of the prior August 6, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion made by Brescia, seconded by VanLeeuwen, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carries with five ayes and one abstention.

Roll Call taken.

### **Financial Reports and/or Requests for Payment**

Ms. Villasuso advises that the OCFC reports were covered in the IDA meeting, and that there is one request for payment in the amount of \$101.75.

Motion made by Vernon, seconded by Brescia, that the Board accepts the financial reports and authorization of OCFC payments and vouchers for September 2014. Open for discussion. Affirmative votes of all members present result in motion carried.

### **Newburgh Armory – Project Expenditure Request**

Mr. Kaplan begins by inviting the Members to hold a meeting at the Armory so that they can see the great things happening there. He offers a brief history of the Armory and how it came to be the Newburgh Armory Unity Center. He notes that the Board responsible for putting the Armory together knew the needs of the City of Newburgh, and wanted to put together a low-cost operation. He goes on to explain some of the important partnerships formed during the first months of the Armory, and how a wide array of organizations came together to support the project. The Armory now serves 40K Orange County residents, from athletics to education to immigration services, and has become a place where everyone is comfortable. He advises that the Armory has nearly outgrown its 70K square foot building, the last 10K of which is a garage they'd like to convert into classrooms. With the completion of those classrooms, there will not be any extra space in the entire Armory. Today's request is for \$375K for the classroom conversion, the construction of which is estimated at \$840K. The project will result in 6 more desperately needed classrooms to meet their demands.

He offers some examples of how the Armory is earning income, from bull riding competitions to a future catering space. These functions bring in significant tourism figures. Mr. Petro reminds the Board that he and Ms. Villasuso visited the Armory a few weeks ago, and during their visit all of their space was being utilized. He offers his support of the project.

Mr. Vernon reiterates that 40K people go through the Armory. It started as a recreation facility, but has become a center for education involving kids and parents alike. He goes on to state that the center is regional, noting that the immigration center draws people from Queens and the Bronx. Ms. Halahan shares a story from her United Way

meeting earlier in the week, which stated that in underprivileged neighborhoods there is one book per every three hundred kids. But in the Armory, books are everywhere available to the children. The study went on to discuss how literacy impacts crime rates and success in life. The Armory gives a chance to some kids who would otherwise have nothing to help them learn.

*[Mr. Brescia exits the meeting]*

Chairman Armistead notes that the project will be referred to Governance for action at October's meeting.

### **Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing – Project Expenditure Request**

Mr. Cozzolino begins by advising that the machining center in the Armory will be running its first program, a sheet metal course, the second week of October. CGAM has been working with IBEW Local 363, USAI Lighting and LSI Lighting, and have reached a deal that the 30 people in going through the program will all have jobs, with benefits, when they graduate just before Christmas. He's also been working with Steve Knob and SUNY IT for the selection process, and Mr. Cozzolino will be teaching the course. In addition, CGAM is working on using some federal grant funding to arrange transportation to work, for any graduates of the program who do not have transportation in place. Mr. Vernon also adds that this program is another benefit for Orange County, as it provides training for some of the future employees for future IDA projects.

Mr. Cozzolino discusses the current Armory setup, and explains the Smart IT classroom and Machinist room, and gives an overview of some other uses for their space at the Armory. He goes on to explain a recently-awarded grant that CGAM has received to continue working with the City of Newburgh to bring in more jobs and industry. He offers the Atlas building as a success story, and describes how the old mattress building has been turned into studios and welcomes people from Brooklyn and the surrounding areas to grow their businesses. In order to continue to win the grants that make these projects possible, there is a necessity for matching funds to be put into those requests. For this recent grant, they need \$30K/year for two years. This grant is focused on re-shoring companies, or companies who want to bring work back to the US. Mr. Dowd asks exactly how the funds will be used, and Mr. Cozzolino advises that the funds would be used to assist in qualifying these companies in the US.

Chairman Armistead advises that the request will be referred to Governance for action at next month's meeting.

Mr. Vernon asks if the original Project Expenditure funds have been expended, and is advised that the funds will be used by the end of the year.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution – Project Expenditure Request**

Ms. Moore updates the Board on the Schoolhouse, and reminds them that DAR has been active for 112 years in matters of historic preservation, education, and patriotism. This is the DAR's 75<sup>th</sup> year taking care of the Old Stone Schoolhouse. She reviews the recent renovations to the Schoolhouse, including the roof and floor and, and notes that DAR received a grant from O&R to update the electrical in the space. She displays a magazine, *American Spirit*, in which the Old Stone Schoolhouse was highlighted and thanks the Board for their support in the past. She goes on to note that this DAR works hard to gather donations, and many of their improvements come from DAR members' own contributions.

At this time, DAR is requesting \$10K to install a new ceiling in the Schoolhouse, scrape loose masonry, and to paint the interior of the building. Ms. Moore also thanks Mr. Vernon for visiting the Schoolhouse and appreciates his time.

Chairman Armistead advises that the project will be referred to Governance at October's meeting.

### **Such other and further business as may be presented**

With no further business, meeting called for adjournment by Chairman Armistead, motion made by VanLeeuwen, seconded by Steinberg, the time being 3:40 p.m.