

ORANGE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY & ORANGE COUNTY FUNDING CORPORATION

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 14, 2019

Orange County Business Accelerator in New Windsor, New York.  
1:00- 2:00pm

PRESENT: Edward Diana, John Steinberg, James DiSalvo

ALSO PRESENT: Laurie Villasuso – Chief Operating Officer  
Kevin Dowd – IDA Attorney  
Vincent Cozzolino – Managing Director  
Melanie Schouten – Project Manager  
Kevin Sumner – OC Soil and Water District  
Paul Ruszkiewicz - OC Legislator

**Orange County Industrial Development Agency**

**Corporate Mission and Goals**

Ms. Villasuso reminds the committee that this report is part of the annual PARIS report to the state. The report states both the mission of the board and goal figures for jobs created and retained. As in the past few years, ideally the board would continue to value quality of jobs created as opposed to just quantity. This concept supports the \$15 an hour initiative, benefits, and sustainability of jobs the board has been requiring of its applicants.

If the committee feels that it is reasonable, it would be appropriate to keep the figures of the past year - 250 jobs created and 100 retained.

Mr. Diana states that to further support this mission, the board needs to be more selective of the projects it incentivizes.

Ms. Villasuso states that management and counsel are working on an updated UTEP to assist in the project approval process. That document will have a scoring system breaking down whether a project may come before the board. With additional supporting documents, it will be easier for the board to justify its decision.

The Committee discusses potential mission refinements and job goals.

The Committee decides to support 250 jobs created and 100 retained for 2018 and 2019.

**Orange County Funding Corporation**

**Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District**

Ms. Villasuso informs the Committee that the Conservation District has submitted a \$50,000 request to assist County Dairy Farms with the aggregation and removal of tires.

*Mr. DiSalvo Enters the meeting.*

Mr. Sumner informs the board that dairy farmers in the County are struggling financially. A new DEC regulation requires farmers to cut in half and drill holes in all tires, if not removed from the property, further contributing to financial strife. The farm bureau was able to convince the DEC that this was not feasible. The current regulation has been postponed but is still looming. Historically, farmers have used these tires to hold the covers on their trench silos. Last year a product was found and funded for the dairy farmers eliminating the hassle of working with the tires and the mosquito breeding habitat it creates. As a result, the tires are no longer needed, but there is a large cost associated with this removal. The \$150,000 cost associated with the project is based on surveys conducted with the estimated removal amount of 35,000 to 40,000 tires.

Ms. Villasuso asks where the remaining \$100,000 would come from for the project.

Mr. Sumner states that they are not sure. The County wanted to see how this expenditure request went before securing the remaining funds. Meetings with Senator Metzger staff regarding funding have been held, but nothing has been finalized. There is potential to back some of it with County funds, but the County is currently involved in flood management and it hoped that those funds could be allocated towards that effort. As a result, the County is searching for other sources to support the farmers.

Mr. DiSalvo states that supporting the County farmers is a great cause. It seems that many of the farms are located in Montgomery. It would be ideal if the Montgomery IDA contributes towards this effort as well.

Mr. Diana states that he feels the County should cover this cost. The concern being that farmers outside of the dairy field will want financial help as well. There is only so much funding available through the OCFC.

Mr. Schreibeis agrees.

Mr. DiSalvo states that's why he feels that the OCFC cannot be the sole contributor towards the removal of these tires. Therefore, if some of these farms are within jurisdictions with active IDAs, it would be ideal to request contributions from them as well.

Ms. Villasuso asks that considering this expenditure request is not up against a deadline, could this project go before the County Legislature to clarify its stance on funding the project and why it should be the OCIDA or other partners.

Mr. Sumner and Mr. Ruszkiewicz state that it could be discussed further by the County.

*Mr. Sumner and Mr. Ruszkiewicz exit the meeting.*

The Committee discusses the matter further.

The Committee decides that at this point in time the recommendation is that a decision is tabled, but if the project can get a buy in from other funding sources the OCFC will consider covering the remaining \$25,000.