

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 9, 2020

Via Zoom / Conference CALL
1:42pm – 2:03pm

PRESENT: Edward Diana, Mary Ellen Rogulski, James DiSalvo (Entered Late)

ALSO PRESENT: Laurie Villasuso – Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Dowd – IDA Attorney
Vincent Cozzolino – Managing Director
Melanie Schouten – Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Corr – Concerned Citizen
Ken Newbold, Town of Goshen Councilman
Concerned Citizens of the HV

Orange County Industrial Development Agency

HVADC (Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation) IDA Agent Status

Ms. Villasuso started the meeting stating the first item on the agenda to review is the agent's status. Every year we review each agent's work on behalf of the IDA. The agent contracts with Women's Enterprise Development Center and TSEC have already been reviewed. This month we will review the HVADC (Hudson Valley AgriBusiness Development Corporation) work that was performed, as we build out the budget for 2021 so that everyone is comfortable with the agent statuses. HVADC does work for all the counties in the Hudson Valley for farming and agriculture related issues. The IDA has worked with HVADC with the Hemp side of the Accelerator but feels that we should review their work in advance of our budget discussions for 2021. Ms. Villasuso stated she believes that this is an item the IDA carries for the County and before any decisions are made, we wanted to review the agent status with the Governance Committee. Ms. Villasuso asked if the Committee wanted a staff member or a board member to speak to the County to see if there was something that they wanted the IDA to pay for, or if it is for the IDA benefit maybe we should consider some parameters of the agreement. Mr. DiSalvo entered the meeting. Ms. Rogulski asked how much is paid the HVADC and Ms. Villasuso stated \$25,000.00. Mr. Cozzolino stated that he doesn't feel we got our money's worth for the hemp project. He stated that if we decide to go with HVADC we should have better limitations and boundaries by getting a set of projects that will be funded up front with a limit. Mr. Diana stated that he didn't feel that we got much for the money. He stated that the vegetable growers do their own thing and the Hemp didn't take off like it was to be expected. Ms. Villasuso said that she thought if we had a list of items that we could expect from HVADC for the year that would be a good middle ground. Mr. Diana asked if someone can find out how much each County is putting in and where is the money coming from then compare. Ms. Rogulski said that if we don't feel like we are getting our money's worth maybe we should tell them we will consider paying a certain amount by project. The staff will report back to the Committee its findings next month.

Orange County Funding Corporation

**Concerned Citizens for the Hudson Valley (Goshen-Case Cemetery)
Project Expenditure Request**

Ms. Villasuso stated that the OCFC has received an application from the Concerned Citizens for the Hudson Valley for the maintenance of a cemetery in Goshen for \$1,200.00. The money will be used for an arborist to remove trees that are falling on a historical site that no one is caring for. Ms. Corr spoke about the disrepair of the cemetery and said that there have been a lot of people working on it including the Boy Scouts. Ms. Corr introduced the Town Historian Ed Conner and stated he will give some history. He stated that this is a small family cemetery with around 43 stones and indication that there are other burials with stones missing over the years. The situation is that there are at least 3 maple trees that are dead and need to be removed before they fall and damage any of the stones. There are also a few minor trees along the road that also need to be removed due to being close to the power lines on Sarah Wells Trail. Some of the stones need to be secured since they are falling down. Ms. Villasuso stated that this request is for the tree removal only and there is an estimate in the packet from the arborist. She reminded everyone that the OCFC

has done beautification projects in the past and paid the vendor directly once the work is complete and an invoice has been issued. Mr. Diana stated that there is a state law that anytime a cemetery is abandoned the town must take over the cemetery and maintain it. Ms. Corr stated that she has approached the Town Board about this and has been ignored. Mr. Newbold, Town of Goshen Councilman, said that the Town Supervisor has told Ms. Corr that this law needs to be researched and the Town has been researching it for 16 years. She stated that the Town refuses to put this on the agenda, refuses to bring this to a vote and refuses to give any public speaking time and feels this is an important issue. Ms. Rogulski stated that it is unfortunate that the Town has taken the position it has taken but feels that it is important that the cemetery be preserved. Ms. Rogulski and Mr. Diana both stated they are in favor, but Mr. Diana would like Mr. Dowd to research the law and write the opinion of the law.

Motion to bring the application to the OCFC Board with a positive recommendation made by Ms. Rogulski, seconded by Mr. Diana, motion carries with all in favor.

Governance Committee Meeting ended at 2:04pm.