

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN ROOM #318  
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

**Members: Chairman Gouldman, Legislators Jonke & Montgomery**

**Tuesday**

**August 10, 2021**

**(Immediately Following the Personnel Meeting at 6PM)**

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 P.M. by Chairman Gouldman who led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislator Jonke, Legislator Montgomery, and Chairman Gouldman were present.

**Item #3 – Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2021 & June 8, 2021 Meetings**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Item #4 – Approval/Reappointments/Industrial Development Agency Board/Nulk, Cooke, Tamagna, Baranowski, Downey, Karlsson**

Chairman Gouldman stated that these appointments/reappointments were done in 2019 and 2020, so they did not need to be addressed at this meeting.

Chairman of the IDA, William Nulk, apologized for the confusion surrounding this resolution. He reminded people that they are a board without a background staff. He explained that they are trying to collate information for reports and are progressing in that with the help of a part-time student intern. He discussed some projects that they are looking forward to, such as work with the Gleneida Distillery, an assisted living facility on Seminary Hill, Ace Endico, and a hotel in Southeast.

Chairman Gouldman stated that IDA Chairman Nulk does a great job with the IDA.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she had asked the Legislative Staff if they had the resumes attached to the approvals. She requested the resumes and minutes from Chairman Nulk going forward, as well as minutes from the IDA meetings.

Legislator Sayegh asked if this information was available on the IDA website.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated that their names are on the website, but not full resumes.

Legislator Sayegh asked if minutes were on the IDA website.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated that minutes, reports, and budget reports are on the IDA website.

Legislator Montgomery questioned whether or not the Legislature approved IDA projects.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated no.

Legislator Montgomery requested for the minutes to be forwarded to the Legislature directly.

Legislator Sullivan thanked IDA Chairman Nulk for serving in an important and critical role for the economic development of the county. He asked for clarification about what IDA Chairman Nulk meant by Gleneida.

IDA Chairman Nulk explained that he meant Gleneida Distillery and expressed his belief that it is going to happen.

Legislator Nacerino thanked the group of volunteers who work for the IDA and asked for their names to be read for the record.

Chairman Gouldman read their names.

Legislator Montgomery asked if these volunteers signed conflict statements before they are appointed.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated yes, they do and there is a conflict of interest policy.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if there is a conflict of interest related to one of the appointed members being the sister of the Director of Transportation who is responsible for approving tax incentives for projects stewarded by the Planning and Transportation Department. She stated that she believes that this relationship had never been made clear to the public.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated that if a conflict of interest comes up that person recuses themselves. He stated that they are cognizant and when this issue has come up before they had no trouble getting someone to recuse themselves.

Legislator Montgomery asked if the Legislature could see their conflict statements.

Chairman Gouldman stated that it is a similar situation with the Legislature. He stated that if something conflicts in our private lives, then we abstain from voting.

Legislator Jonke questioned whether there has been an ethics violation in the past five years.

IDA Chairman Nulk stated that there have been none.

Legislator Jonke stated if Legislator Montgomery believes there is an ethics violation, she should file a complaint. He stated the Legislature has reviewed the resumes in the past.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she had never seen the resumes before.

Legislator Jonke said that is not the case.

Legislator Albano stated it can get complicated with various family relationships and there are very honorable people serving.

### **Item # 5 – FYI/Letters of Support to NYS Regional Economic Development Council/Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival**

Chairman Gouldman stated that letters of support were sent by Legislator Montgomery and County Executive Odell.

Resident Stacy Dumont stated that as a longtime member of the arts community she is pleased that the County is in such support of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and recognizes the economic and cultural richness that the fine and performing arts brings. She stated that there is an abundance of arts organizations, and the County's support means the world to them. She stated that the success of those organizations overflows over into the success of the retail, restaurant, and other businesses in the surrounding areas.

Chairman Gouldman stated that the arts are very important to everyone.

Legislator Montgomery stated she is always happy to write a letter of support for the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, especially during this time of transition. She stated that the arts contribute at least \$6 million to the County economy each year, and the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival is essential to that.

### **Item #6 – FYI/American Rescue Plan Act/Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund**

Chairman Gouldman stated that Legislator Montgomery requested the County Executive provide the Legislature and the public with status of the Putnam County's application for funding and distribution of the funds from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund from the Federal Government. He stated that the County Executive's response is in the backup material for review.

Legislator Montgomery stated that she was hoping for more of an explanation. She stated that other municipalities have laid out the explanation for their Legislatures, committees, and the public. She stated that she is anxious to find out the plan for this money, and believes that as the Legislature, they should be aware of the plan. She assumes that the application must be in process because they have applied for and received some of the money.

Chairman Gouldman read the letter sent by County Executive Odell. He stated that when the Federal Government tells the County what to do with the money then the Legislature will hear more information and will request more information.

**Item #7 – FYI/Unemployment Report - Duly Noted**

**Item #8 – Other Business - None**

**Item #9 - Adjournment**

There being no other business, at 6:30 P.M., Chairman Gouldman made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator Jonke. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Administrative Assistant, Ed Gordon.