

Jones takes the lead on CEDC board

By Katie Kocijanski Columbia-Greene Media | Posted: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 12:00 am

GREENPORT— The Columbia Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors now has a new president and vice president to lead them in the midst of the organization’s restructuring. Tony Jones of Roe Jan Publishing was elected to be the corporation’s president, he replaces David Crawford who stepped down after 25 years of service in June.

Jones was previously on the board from 1997-2006 and was the longtime owner of the now-closed newspaper, The Independent until 2001. He was re-elected to serve in February 2014.

“Given what the organization is going through, we are trying to get back on track,” Jones said. “I would like to see the CEDC work more collaboratively with organizations like the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.”

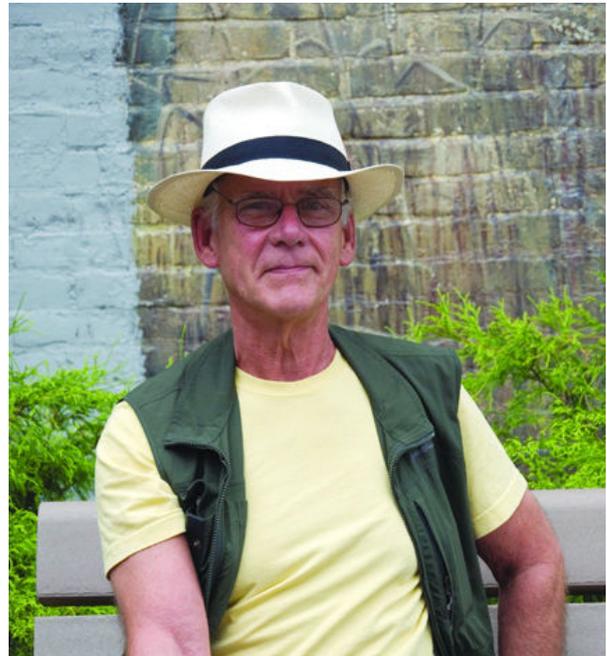
David Fingar joins Jones as the newly elected vice president He is the chief engineer for Mid-Hudson Cable and joined the board in August 2014. He replaces Mary Bartolotta of Coldwell Banker Bartolotta & Associates.

Hudson Supervisor Sarah Sterling, D-1st Ward will continue to serve as the corporation’s secretary with Bob Sherwood of Kinderhook Bank continuing his duties as treasurer.

Jones said he believes there is a lot of diversity in terms of the types of businesses in Columbia County. With all of the diversity, he said it really energizes the corporation in moving forward with its future.

While discussions with the Board of Supervisors continue, Jones is an advocate for developing a concrete countywide economic development plan. Going forward, he hopes the corporation can work with the local towns on their own economic development efforts.

“By developing a county economic development plan, it will give us a road map for the future,” Jones said. “If we are going to be successful in the future, the corporation needs to do it collaboratively.”



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Members of the board were given copies of the proposed updated bylaws. Jones said the governance committee will meet again in the next few weeks to finalize the revisions. Members were asked to give feedback on the new changes.

The Executive Committee was reorganized, and Jones said while the committee would be made up of the four board officers and an additional member, Colin Stair, its purpose is yet to be determined.

In addition to the need

to come up with a charter, a search for a permanent full time executive director cannot begin until county funding is restored to the corporation.

At the Aug. 17 Economic Development Committee meeting, interim executive director F. Michael Tucker asked for the quarterly payments be restored pending the adoption of a new contract and reorganization structure.

“We hope to have the final drafts of the bylaws ready to present at the September meeting,” Jones said.

The corporation board next meets 8:30 a.m. Sept. 29.

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