



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES

Minutes for the special meeting of Columbia Economic Development Corporation Board of Trustees held at their offices located at 4303 Route 9, Hudson, New York, **Friday, June 26, 2015** at 8:30am.

ATTENDANCE:

Mary Bartolotta
Michael Benson
Rick Bianchi
Bruce Bohnsack
Paul Colarusso
David Fingar
Tony Jones
Kim Keil
Colin Stair
Sarah Sterling

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Bill Better
Jim Champion
David Crawford
Greg Fingar
Bruce Finn
John Porreca
Robert Sherwood
Scott Wood

COUNSEL:

Andy Howard

STAFF:

Lisa Drahushuk
Erin McNary
Carol Wilber

PUBLIC

Patti Matheney
Louise Rorback
David Ginsberg
2 unidentified audience members

Ms. Bartolotta called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

Ginsberg's:

Ms. Bartolotta stated there were two issues to address currently. She noted the Ginsberg contract had been approved by the Board on July 29, 2014, and had been submitted to the Authority Budget's Office for review as required. There had been no comment or changes required. The first issue was to execute the contract. The second issue was to address the October 2014 letter CEDC had received from Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Pat Grattan, requesting CEDC repay the County \$114,000 for the property. She stated she was unsure if the history of the purchase of the property and the origin of the partial repayment funds had been researched. Ms. Bartolotta offered the suggestion that several CEDC Members sit with the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and the County Economic Development Committee to discuss the reimbursement.

Mr. Colarusso doubted if the County funds had been specifically segregated from other "CEDC" funds at the time of the partial repayment. Mr. Benson stated in his opinion the letter means nothing. He noted there was no Board of Supervisor consensus. He stated in his opinion the letter was written unilaterally by Mr. Grattan. He noted there were 12-15 others at the Board of Supervisors who were not happy the letter was written. He noted CEDC needed to decide if Ginsberg's was important enough to move forward. He stated he felt the letter was no issue and



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felt the topic of reimbursement didn't need to be addressed. Mr. Benson stated the Board of Supervisors needed to discuss and vote on any action. He noted no one has the ability to act unilaterally.

Mr. Benson stated a discussion was needed about the County placing fill removed from another site onto the property. Mr. Colarusso asked if the developer was aware. Mr. Jones noted that that had been accepted as part of the project, noting the sale was for \$1.

Mr. Howard outlined the two issues. He stated the Board had voted to execute the land sale contract. He suggested the Board vote to authorize Ms. Bartolotta to execute the contract on the basis of the previous approval. He noted the second issue is how to deal with the issue of reimbursing the County. He stated the Board could discuss or they could wait to discuss. He suggested the issue not be ignored.

The Board discussed who would be involved in the discussions at the County. They agreed that it would go to the County Economic Development Committee. Ms. Bartolotta suggested deferring the discussion to the full board meeting on June 30, 2015. Mr. Jones made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fingar. Mr. Benson and Ms. Sterling recused themselves.

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to authorize Ms. Bartolotta to execute the land sale contract and any associated documents concerning the Ginsberg project. Mr. Bianchi seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and was as follows: Ms. Bartolotta – aye, Ms. Sterling – aye, Mr. Benson – recused, Mr. Bianchi – aye, Mr. Bohnsack – aye, Mr. Colarusso – aye, Mr. D. Fingar – aye, Mr. Jones – aye, Ms. Keil – aye, Mr. Stair – nay. The motion passed with 8 ayes, 1 nay and 1 recusal.

With no further business, Mr. Colarusso made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Bohnsack, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35am

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk