**MINUTES**

**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**Annual Members Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 30, 2019**

**Kozel’s Restaurant**

**Route 9H**

**West Ghent, NY 12075**

The annual meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) Members was held at Kozel’s Restaurant, located at Route 9H, West Ghent, NY 12075 on April 30, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 8:07am. by David Fingar, Chair of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Fingar welcomed the attendees to the CEDC 2019 Annual Members Meeting. He introduced the Board of Directors and CEDC Staff. Mr. Fingar acknowledged the elected officials and the meeting sponsors. He introduced Jeff Stone of Berkshire Bank the event sponsor, who gave a brief overview of Berkshire Bank to the attendees.

Mr. Fingar noted he had followed Tony Jones as CEDC Chair and recognized Mr. Jones’ contributions to the organization. Mr. Fingar turned the meeting over to Mr. Tucker. Mr. Tucker thanked Mr. Jones for his hard work and dedication to CEDC over his tenure, and presented him with a print of the Hudson River in appreciation of his service. Mr. Tucker also acknowledged James Campion, President of Columbia-Greene Community College, who would be retiring in July.

Mr. Tucker introduced Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, Matt Murell. Chairman Murell thanked CEDC for their efforts. He stated upgrades continued on the emergency training center, all county schools had been assigned resource officers and work continued on the shared services program. He noted the Greenport sewer line extension work continued, and Columbia-Greene Community College had undertaken a major building project. Chairman Murell stated Columbia and Greene Counties continued to deal with the opioid epidemic. He closed by congratulating Mr. Campion on his upcoming retirement.

Mr. Tucker then introduced the Mayor of the City of Hudson, Rick Rector. He stated the City was actively involved in the ongoing DRI process, noting projects had been identified. He thanked Mr. Jones for his work with CEDC and congratulated Mr. Fingar on his election to CEDC Chair. Mayor Rector stated the City was in the final phases of the Ferry Street Bridge project and announced a traffic patterns study on the City of Hudson would take place. He stated the County and the City continued to work together on solutions to housing issues as well as other projects.

Mr. Tucker thanked each of the speakers and introduced Mike Yevoli, Regional Director the Empire State Development and Executive Director of the Capital Region Economic Development Council. Mr. Yevoli thanked CEDC and gave a brief overview of the local projects. He announced the 2019 Consolidated Funding Application process would begin on May 1st.

Mr. Tucker then introduced Hugh Johnson of Hugh Johnson Advisors, LLC. Mr. Johnson addressed the current economic cycle, the stock market and trends. He addressed the stock market volatility and the trends that could signal the end of the current cycle. Mr. Johnson gave a positive financial forecast for New York State and Columbia County.

Mr. Tucker stated the 2016 Strategic Plan had been updated, maintaining the four pillars and updating the objectives. He noted economic development had no finish line and success was judged by increased employment and higher paying jobs.

Mr. Tucker announced the beginning of the business portion of the meeting. He called for a motion from a member to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2018 annual meeting. Mr. James Campion made a motion, seconded by Mr. James Lapenn to approve the minutes as presented. Carried.

Mr. Tucker stated Pattison, Koskey, Howe and Bucci CPA’s conducted an independent audit of CEDC’s financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018. Mr. Tucker reported there were no findings in the report and as of December 31, 2018 CEDC had: assets of $3.6 million, net assets of $2.9 million and a net profit of $391,000.

Mr. Tucker introduced James Campion, President of Columbia Greene Community College and Chairman of the CEDC Governance and Nominating Committee who would present the slate of Directors for election and ratification.

Mr. Campion stated the Governance and Nominating Committee presented the following slate of directors to the corporate members for approval:

 Richard Cummings III to complete a term ending May 1, 2020

 Derek Grout to complete a term ending May 1, 2021

 The following were presented to complete a three year term ending May 1, 2022:

 James Calvin – New York Association of Convenience Stores

 Patricia Finnegan – Columbia Memorial Health

 James Lapenn – Retired. LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae Law Firm

 John Lee – Saturn Industries

 Seth Rapport – Valley Mortgage Company Inc.

 Maria Suttmeier – Hudson City School District

Ms. Sarah Sterling made a motion, seconded by Mr. David Fingar to approve the candidates as presented. Carried

Mr. Tucker thanked the attendees, the sponsors and the speakers for their time and commitment to CEDC. The meeting adjourned at 9:18am.

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drahushuk*