

DRAFT

**Columbia County
Industrial Development Agency**

**MINUTES
COLUMBIA COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Full Board
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
Via conference call due to COVID-19 outbreak**

A regularly scheduled meeting of Columbia County Industrial Development Agency's Board held via conference call due to COVID-19 on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 8:49am by Carmine Pierro, Chairman.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Nina Fingar-Smith	Board Member	Present via phone	
Robert Galluscio	Treasurer	Present via phone	
William Gerlach	Board Member	Present via phone	
Brian Keeler	Board Member	Present via phone	
Carmine Pierro	Chairman	Present via phone	
Sarah Sterling	Secretary	Present via phone	
Theodore Guterman II	Counsel	Present via phone	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present via phone	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present via phone	
Erin McNary	Bookkeeper	Present via phone	
Ed Stiffler	Economic Developer	Present via phone	
Martha Lane	Business Development Specialist	Present via phone	
Carol Wilber	Marketing Director	Present via phone	
Bill Better	Attorney	Present via phone	
A Joseph Scott	CEDC Bond Counsel	Present via phone	
Karen Borovich	Gtel	Present via phone	

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Pierro noted the following would be presented as a consent agenda:

Full Board minutes August 4, 2020

Treasurer's Report

2021 Budget

Ms. Fingar-Smith made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sterling to approve the Consent Agenda.

Carried.

Administrative Director's Report:

Mr. Tucker stated he had sent out an invitation regarding a presentation by NYSERTA regarding real property tax aspects on solar projects. He noted Mr. Stiffler had developed a list of solar projects located in the county. He stated projects have been approaching IDA's in order to

obtain sales tax exemption as well as a PILOT. He anticipated as this evolves, discussions should be held to determine a uniform response to the requests. Mr. Tucker stated Klocke Estates was still determining if they would utilize any of the benefits available through the IDA.

G-tel Application:

Mr. Tucker gave some background on the project noting the company is currently expanding their service area, doubling the area. The project will allow customers to obtain greater internet speed. They have obtained a \$4 million loan in order to finance the expansion. Mr. Better, the attorney for G-tel further explained the project. He noted they were not asking for a PILOT or sales tax exemption. They were asking for a mortgage recording tax exemption in the amount of \$50,000. Ms. Sterling asked if this would assist in addressing the gaps in service in the County. Mr. Better stated it would. Mr. Scott outlined the process moving forward, beginning with the public hearing.

Mr. Tucker stated the next step would be to schedule a public hearing. He suggested October 19th at 8:30am. The Board agreed to move forward with the public hearing. Mr. Guterman stated that at sometime after the Board would need to schedule a special meeting to discuss the project and review the public comment and decide to approve the requested benefit. Mr. Tucker stated the next available date would be October 23rd.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the fees, noting he had done an analysis and suggested that the usual IDA fee of 1% should be adjusted to reflect the requested benefits. He suggested a total fee of \$10,000, inclusive of the application fee, would be appropriate. He also stated the IDA should determine a more standardized schedule for projects that don't utilize all the benefits the IDA offers. The board agreed, noting the potential for solar projects.

Ms. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fingar – Smith to schedule a Public Hearing on the G-Tel project, for October 19th at 8:30am as a virtual meeting. Carried.

Premier Personal Products Corp.: Mr. Tucker noted the owner had filed for a certiorari appeal. The Town had raised their assessment and there was a question if the appeal arbitrated should be based on the PILOT or reviewed by the review board as other properties not under a PILOT agreement would be, when challenged.

With no further business to discuss or public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Galluscio and seconded by Ms. Sterling. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:22am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk