



# Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

**MINUTES**  
**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**Tuesday, December 22, 2020**  
**One Hudson City Centre, Suite 301**  
**Hudson, NY 12534**

Due to public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, the Columbia Economic Development December 22, 2020 Board meeting will be held at 8:30am via ZOOM, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82861040243?pwd=RWFbWZZcW41S2ZFQThIdGwrU1NEdz09> Meeting ID: 828 6104 0243, Passcode: 514043, Call 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 828 6104 0243. The public will have an opportunity to hear the meeting live and provide comments. Comments can be provided via email before and during the meeting to [mtucker@columbiaedc.com](mailto:mtucker@columbiaedc.com). Please check the meeting agenda posted on the CEDC's website [www.columbiaedc.com](http://www.columbiaedc.com) for further instructions to access the virtual meeting and for updated information. A regularly scheduled meeting of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) Board of Directors was held via ZOOM Meet due to COVID-19 on December 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by David Fingar, Chair.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/ Departed
Ruth Adams	Board Member	Present via Zoom	
Russell Bartolotta	Board Member	Excused	
Collin Brown	Board member	Present via Zoom	
Jim Calvin	Vice-Chair	Present via Zoom	
Rick Cummings	Board Member	Present via Zoom	
Carlee Drummer	Board Member – Ex-Officio	Present via Zoom	
David Fingar	Chair	Present via Zoom	
Tish Finnegan	Board Member	Excused	
Derek Grout	Board Member	Excused	
James Lapenn	Board Member	Present via Zoom	
John Lee	Treasurer	Excused	
Kenneth Leggett	Board Member	Excused	
Eric Mortenson	Board Member	Excused	
Carmine Pierro	Board Member – Ex Officio	Excused	
Seth Rapport	Board Member	Present via Zoom	
Richard Scalera	Board Member – Ex Officio	Excused	
Gary Spielmann	Board Member	Present via Zoom	
Sarah Sterling	Secretary	Present via Zoom	
Brian Stickle	Board Member	Excused	
Andy Howard	CEDC Attorney	Present via Zoom	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present via Zoom	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present via Zoom	
Martha Lane	Business Development Specialist	Present via Zoom	
Erin McNary	Bookkeeper	Excused	
Ileana Morales	Marketing Specialist	Present via Zoom	
Carol Wilber	Marketing Director	Present via Zoom	

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lapenn to approve the November 24, 2020 minutes as presented. Carried.*

**President/CEO Report:****Treasurer's Report:**

Mr. Tucker reviewed the Treasurer's Report, projecting a loss of \$24,000 - \$30,000 for the year. *Ms. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lapenn to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.*

**2021 Meeting Calendar:**

Mr. Tucker presented the 2021 Meeting schedule noting the Board of Supervisors meeting would be added later. He noted the Board would adopt their meeting schedule at their organizational meeting of the new year. *Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rapport to approve the 2021 Meeting Calendar. Carried.*

Mr. Tucker announced the SBA would be granting an additional 6-month deferral on their loan payments. He noted the Loan Committee would need to determine if they wished to follow suit.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the Hecate Energy project slated for Copake. He stated he had been working closely with the officials involved. He stated the County would not support any project by offering PILOT benefits on any project that the Town Board opposes. He stated a local group had asked their members to contact the IDA to express their opposition to the project. He felt the IDA would not support any project opposed by the Town.

He noted two part-time staffers had been hired and began work.

**Hudson Tourism Board Initiative Update:**

Mr. Tucker noted most projects had come to fruition with 3 projects pushed to Spring.

**City of Hudson/Galvan Grant and Loan Initiative:**

Mr. Tucker stated an extensive discussion had taken place at the Loan Committee, and roles continued to be explored.

**Empire State Development Loan Initiative:**

Mr. Tucker reminded the Board this was a \$100,000 Women Minority Veteran loan fund. He noted the specific restrictions. He noted the City was still working with New York State on the details.

**Broadband – School District Initiative:**

Mr. Tucker stated the districts just did what the need to do. He has asked the school districts to provide reports on the expenditures to date and their anticipated costs going forward. Berkshire Taconic felt they had a number of donors ready to cover 50% of costs.

**Committee Reports:****Audit and Finance Committee:**

Mr. Fingar noted the Committee had met. He stated the Committee recommended the attached revised budget for approval. *Mr. Calvin, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lapenn to approve the revised budget as presented. Carried.*

**Loan Committee:****Loan Policy Manual Review:**

Ms. Lane reviewed the proposed changes that had been reviewed and recommended by the Loan Committee. *Ms. Sterling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings to approve the changes as outlined. Carried.*



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## **Business Development Specialist Report:**

Ms. Lane stated a position had offered to the candidate who would be deciding by the end of the day.

## **Loan Portfolio Review:**

Ms. Lane stated Brown's Car Sales is behind two payments and she would be contacting them. Train Time Express had been moved to the CEDC Portfolio. *Mr. Lapenn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Calvin to approve the portfolio review as presented. Carried.*

## **Workforce and Education:**

Mr. Lapenn stated the Committee had no update. Mr. Tucker reviewed the Junior Career Leadership program. He stated the Career Jam was moving forward. Ms. Wilber stated she was contacting the school districts in Columbia and Greene Counties regarding their participation in Career Jam.

## **Marketing Director's Report:**

Ms. Wilber drafted a summary of the new stimulus program. She stated the annual membership drive was underway.

Ms. Drummer congratulated those women recognized by the Columbia County Women's Alliance as Women making a difference.

*With no other business to be conducted, and no public comment, Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sterling to adjourn the meeting. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:24am.*

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drafiushuk*