



FULTON COUNTY CENTER FOR REGIONAL GROWTH

Fulton County Center for Regional Growth  
**MINUTES of the MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Friday – December 18, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.  
FCCRG Board Room; 110 Decker Drive, Suite 220  
Johnstown, New York

- Directors Present: Gregory Fagan, Travis Mitchell, Ronald Olinsky, Geoffrey Peck, Jim Selmsler, and Dustin Swanger
- Directors Absent: Michael Bowker and Chris Curro
- Staff Present: Ronald Peters and Becky Hatcher
- Guests: Mike Albanese, FCCRG Counsel; James Groff, Fulton County Liaison; and Jim Mraz, FCIDA

**Public Session**

**Call to Order / Introductions:**

Chair Dustin Swanger called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m. He welcomed the Directors and guests to the meeting.

**Minutes:**

Jim Selmsler made a motion to approve the November 20, 2015 board meeting minutes as written. Travis Mitchell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**Administrative Matters**

**Chair Report:**

Board Chair, Dusty Swanger, said that while he was disappointed that the Mohawk Valley Region was not one of the winners of the MV500 money, he was pleased that the REDC including Fulton County received \$100 million through CFA funding applications. He said that dialog needs to be kept open with other counties and the Fulton County should continue to work with the governor's office in order to continue to increase Fulton County's odds of future CFA approvals.

**Committee Reports:**

*Executive Committee:* This Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

*Governance Committee:* There was no report from the Governance Committee.

*Finance Committee:* Ron Olinsky advised the Board that this Committee did not meet the Wednesday prior; however the reports were processed as normal and sent to him so that he could update the Board. He expressed concern that CRG's cash balance has dropped from the average of \$300,000. Per the Estee report, there are 2 vacancies in the building. In a review of the Loan Pool report, there is a potential buyer for 391 South Main Street.

*Audit Committee:* This Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

### **County and City Reports:**

Jim Mraz reported on an upcoming Smartwaters ceremony and mentioned that the IDA has a busy year coming up in 2016.

### **Old Business**

*Existing Microenterprise Grant Program Update:* Ron Peters advised the Board that there are still two grants left to distribute. One of these may not get distributed at all due to health issues on the part of the recipient. The other is pending due to a zoning process but is expected to be funded. The second business has received funding from GEDC and has received the engineering plans that were required for an upcoming planning board meeting.

*Community Outreach Program:* Ron continues to meet with small local businesses in the County. During the month of December he met with Cherry Valley Memorials, Curtin Hebert, Glove Theatre, Kucel Contractors, Mr. G's and St. Mary's Healthcare. He successfully completed the required 72 visits called for in the County contract. Ron mentioned that most economic development agencies meet with 1 business per month, so 6 per month is challenging but he has enjoyed the process.

*Management Agreement Updates:* Monthly reports from Maddalone continue to be received. CBRE has still not sent a report through the receiver.

*Property Disposition Update:* This will be discussed in Executive Session.

*NYS Business Marketing Inquiries:* Ron participated in a total of 5-6 conference calls with NYS in December. He repeated his concerns that there has not been any follow-up on these calls and is concerned that these leads are going somewhere else. As others have also voiced the same concerns, he feels that there could be changes in the program next year.

*Foreign Trade Zone:* The Custom's Port Director did come into the County to meet with prospective FTZ locations. He said that the state is being proactive regarding establishing a Zone in the County. One of the two businesses will likely continue with the process; the other is less certain but will consider their options.

*Estee Phase II:* Liberty Affordable Housing said that they should know in early January if they have been awarded funding for Estee Phase II.

*Combined County Marketing Effort Update:* Ron continues to meet with Jim Mraz and Jon Stead to market Fulton County.

CRG Board Retreat Follow-up: This topic will be discussed in Executive Session.

**New Business**

CFA Project Announcements: The Directors received a copy of all CFA recipients received in Fulton County in their meeting packet. Ron has met with FAGE and will continue to work with Century Linen regarding their projects. New Age Energy now needs to focus on their sewer issue and electric needs. Ron has asked for their schedule so that he can assist them.

The County received their requested 2016 Microenterprise Grant Program. It totals \$200,000.00; same as 2013 and CRG will administer it on their behalf. Ron has a list of at least 8 interested businesses and should have the funding disbursed within a year.

2016 Planning: The Board revisited briefly the idea of establishing a Membership Committee to grow membership with CRG. This Committee would consist of CRG Directors and other business leaders from the County. The Directors agreed to establish this Committee.

Ron said that he would like to roll out the plan to host a three part symposium in Fulton County in spring or early summer 2016.

Ron is planning to host a spring CRG event and at least one fundraising event in early 2016.

CRG Amended Policies and Reports: This subject will be discussed in executive session.

**Adjournment to Executive Session to Discuss Legal Issues**

At 9:18 a.m. Dusty Swanger asked for a motion that the Board move into Executive Session; it was made by Jim Selmser and seconded by Geoff Peck before it was passed. The guests were dismissed and thanked for their attendance at the Board meeting.

**Legal Issues:**

The Directors discussed several ongoing legal issues. These discussions were informational in nature. No action was needed.

**Adjournment**

At 10:59 a.m., Becky Hatcher was asked to leave the meeting. No further minutes were taken of the meeting. The Directors adjourned the meeting around 10:20 a.m.

**Addendum per Board Secretary:** After Becky Hatcher left the meeting the Board discussed and approved raises for both Becky Hatcher and Ronald Peters.

Respectfully Submitted,



Geoffrey Peck, Board Secretary

1-29-16

Date