

**TOWN OF AMHERST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**Minutes of the 408<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**April 18, 2008 – 8:30 am**

**Agency Offices, 4287 Main Street**

The meeting of the above captioned Agency was called to order by Chairman Fredrick A. Vilonen.

**PRESENT:** Fredrick A. Vilonen  
Robert L. Miller  
Ayesha Nariman  
Robert Ciesielski  
Stuart Shapiro  
James J. Allen, Executive Director  
Nathan S. Neill, Esq.

**ABSENT:** John P. DeLuca  
Randall Clark

**GUESTS:** AIDA Staff  
Edward Stachura  
David Tytka, Uniland Development  
Eric Tudor, Caldwell Banker  
Jonathan Epstein, Buffalo News  
James Cullinan

Chairman Vilonen reminded everyone that the meeting was being tape-recorded.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 2008 meeting were approved with a request from Dr. Shapiro that the address for 390 Youngs Road project be amended to 390 South Youngs Road which is the correct address for the property.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for March 2008 was approved as presented.

**BILLS & COMMUNICATIONS**

Agency received a letter from Gary Black of the Town of Amherst Planning Department informing the Agency that the Town was creating a new committee for the Harlem Kensington Cleveland and for anyone interested to contact him. The committee is being established to concentrate on zoning issues in the area.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Allen informed that board that he along with Agency staff members David Mingoia and Laure Manuszewski were going to be receiving training for IMPLAN software. Mr. Allen explained that IMPLAN is the industry standard when it comes to measuring the economic impact of development projects. Mr. Allen also noted that staff from ECIDA, the Erie County Department of Environments and Planning and the GNRTC would also be participating in the two day training seminar.

Mr. Allen also informed the board that he attended the Amherst Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Council meeting held in March. He noted that the Council had objections to Assemblyman Hoyts' IDA reform legislation, but he also noted that there is still no companion bill to the legislation in the Senate.

Mr. Allen told the board that he attended the recent Brookings Institute seminar hosted by the University of Buffalo. The topic of the seminar was about the opportunities for the United States and Canada if we were to view the area from Toronto to Rochester as one region and economic corridor.

Mr. Allen informed that board that he had recently met with County Executive Chris Collins and Director of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Holly Sinnott to discuss economic development in WNY. Mr Allen said that the County Executive is supportive of collaboration rather than consolidation when it comes to economic development. Mr. Allen also noted that Mr. Collins does not agree that clawbacks of incentives are appropriate, but that he does feel that ceasing incentives if a project does not meet its stated goals would be better.

The board then had a lengthy discussion relating to clawbacks on Agency projects.

Agency Board member Robert Ciesielski made the following motion:

AIDA will adopt a claw back policy as a means to possible sanctions in all transactions of the Agency where board deems necessary, such as possible mis-statements in applications.

Executive Director Allen reminded the board that the Agency works in collaboration with all the IDAs in Erie County and that the AIDA is currently bound under a Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to countywide eligibility policy for IDA assistance. The countywide eligibility policy does not require clawbacks. Mr. Allen noted that the AIDA would be in direct violation of the MOU and the policy should the board vote in favor of Mr. Ciesielski's resolution.

Board member Ayesha Nariman stated that she would support Mr. Ciesieliski's resolution if he would amend it to state that the board agreed to send the resolution to the IDA Leadership Council for discussion and determination on a countywide basis.

Mr. Ciesieliski stated that he would like the board to act on his resolution as he originally presented it.

Upon a motion by Robert Ciesieliski, seconded by Stuart Shapiro, a vote of no by Fredrick Vilonen, Robert Miller and Ayesha Nariman, the resolution failed to pass.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Upon a motion by Robert Miller, seconded by Ayesha Nariman, and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF AMHERST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ACCEPT THE 2007 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE AGENCY AS PREPARED BY TOSKI & SCHAEFER.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business at this meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Election of Officers

The board voted in favor of the following slate of officers for 2008:

Fredrick Vilonen – Chairman  
Robert Miller – Vice Chairman  
John DeLuca – Treasurer  
Secretary - no volunteers

Chairman Vilonen encouraged the board members to consider the position of Secretary and to let him know of their interest.

The board appointed the following Committees:

Audit Committee will be comprised of the AIDA Chairman, AIDA Vice Chairman and the AIDA Treasurer.

Governance Committee will be comprised of AIDA Chairman, AIDA Vice Chairman and the AIDA Treasurer.

9:30 am – Meeting adjourned.