

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2019**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held their board meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2019 in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

Present: David Converse, Chair, John Jennings, W. Edward Walldroff, Paul Warneck, Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., Gregory Gardner, William Johnson, Christine Powers, Richard Duvall

Also Present: Joseph Russell, Esq., Marcus Wolf of the Watertown Daily Times (arrived at 8:12 a.m.)

Staff Present: Donald Alexander, David Zembiec, Lyle Eaton, Peggy Sampson, Jay Matteson, Marshall Weir

Excused: Lisa LøHuillier

Absent: Kent Burto

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. Converse called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Converse asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Privilege of the Floor:** Mr. Converse invited guests to speak. No one spoke.
- IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the regular meeting held February 14, 2019 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Walldroff, seconded by Mr. Gardner. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Aliasso reviewed the financials for the period ending February 28, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Aliasso to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Ms. Powers. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:** None.
- VII. Council Reports:**
 - a. Manufacturing** – Mr. Zembiec said that he continues to work with Lewis County, JCC and BOCES to host a March 29th workshop on apprenticeship program funding opportunities.

He said that he and Mr. Alexander recently attended the Lewis County IDA open house for their new incubator building and noted that they continue to work regionally with St. Lawrence County for the Drum Country Business marketing effort and safety training programs.
 - b. Marketing** – Mr. Weir updated the board on the following:
 - Newsletter ó Issued the first newsletter yesterday and will issue monthly going forward. He said that he is still working out some kinks to fix the font and size of the text.

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- Video ó He said that the stakeholders had the opportunity to participate in the data point process and those points were provided to quality production yesterday.

Mr. Wolf entered the meeting at 8:12 a.m.

- Euromarket ó In the process of sending out a mailing for outreach.
- Visit ó He and Mr. Zembiec made a visitation to Running Boards. They employ up to 12 people and are increasing faster than expected. They plan to franchise and sell the trucks to the franchisees.

c. **Ag** – Mr. Matteson updated the board on the following:

- Senator Gillibrand ó Received an email asking for input and provided her with answers in regards to centralized dairy processing purchasing.
- Senator Schumer's Office ó Met with them regarding the wine tariffs. Mr. Matteson will be reaching out to wineries. He said that it could be a big economic impact if the tariffs are alleviated.
- 2019 Ag Development Conference ó The conference will be held on March 22nd at the Hilton Garden Inn and has a great line-up with presenters. The conference and the lunch will be free. Mr. Alexander said that this is a significant event for our organization and encouraged board members to attend and help support it by promoting it.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- Bad Development News ó Mr. Alexander shared points from an article from USA Today naming New York number one for the highest state tax paid as a percentage of income (12.7%). He said site developers look at the personal income tax among other things and he is worried about growing our community.

IX. Counsel: None.

X. New Business: None.

XI. Adjournment: With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Aliasso, seconded by Mr. Jennings. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.