

**Jefferson County Local Development Corporation  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2025**

The Jefferson County Local Development Corporation held its board meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2025, in the board room at 800 Starbuck Avenue, Watertown, NY.

**Present:** Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., W. Edward Walldroff, William Johnson, Lisa L'Huillier, David Converse, Rob Aiken, Paul Warneck, Dr. Dawn M. Robinson, John Condino  
**Zoom:** Dr. Gregory A. Gardner

**Excused:** Charles Capone

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Ryan Piche (Jefferson County Administrator)  
**Zoom:** Justin Miller, Esq. (Harris Beach), Craig Fox (Watertown Daily Times)

**Staff Present:** Marshall Weir, Jay Matteson, Dorena Kimball, Peggy Sampson, Robin Stephenson

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Aliasso called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Privilege of the Floor:** No one spoke.  
  
Mr. Weir welcomed Dorena Kimball to the organization. He said she has a lot of experience with county business since she was the longtime deputy treasurer for Jefferson County. He said we are overjoyed to have her here and ready to step into Lyle's shoes at the end of the year.
- IV. Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on October 2, 2025 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Warneck. All in favor. Carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Warneck reviewed the financials for the period ending October 31, 2025. Mr. Warneck said the board previously agreed to lend \$1,500,000 to the IDA which has now occurred and shows on the balance sheet. A motion was made by Mr. Condino to accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Chairman Aliasso said he noticed the expenses are greater than the income for the Grant Federal Income. He said he believes it should be in and out. We spent \$137,562.78 and booked \$89,384.55. All in favor. Carried.
- VI. Committee Reports:** None.
- VII. Council Reports:**
  - a. Ag – Mr. Matteson reported on the following:**
    - Southern Dairy – continue to work with them. They visited in September and October. They are working with the consultant group for the site plan. He said the project moved from the Massey Street site over to Old Rome State Road site.
    - CWT Farms International – have been in contact with them to talk about the success of their facility and noted that they have exceeded their production expectations.

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- National Grid – has a new economic development representative for the area, Brian Anderson. He and Marshall will meet with him on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Walldroff asked if National Grid could make a presentation to the board regarding their plan for the \$300M buildout and what it will be doing for economic development in the county. Mr. Matteson said we could get someone to speak to the board.
- Annual Ag Conference – possible name change to ‘Grow with Jefferson County Conference’ (if the committee agrees). One of the topics may be AI and its impact on agriculture in the county.
- Dairy Parade Planning Meeting – met yesterday to start planning for next year.

Mr. Johnson asked if Southern Dairy made contact for the ISO since it is one of the big obstacles. Mr. Matteson said he talked with Owen yesterday and indicated that it is on their radar screen as something they need to get done right away.

- b. Manufacturing** – Ms. Stephenson said Manufacturing Day was a success with the students (approximately 500 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders). She said they encouraged the manufacturers to talk about their processes and workforce. Going forward, they will reach out to the guidance counselors during the summer months to start planning the fall event.

Mr. Weir reported that he had a great meeting yesterday afternoon with Metalcraft Marine. They are busy and excited about the future and their building and have expressed interest in the Foreign Trade Zone (as well as another business in the park). He said he was informed how competitive it is for welders in the Corporate Park.

- c. Marketing** – Mr. Weir reported on the following:
- Strategic Development Specialists – toured the Micron site with Onondaga IDA CEO Bob Petrovich, Bill Johnson, Ryan Piche and Ryan McMahon. He said it was a positive meeting and they talked about a site selecting event that will be held in Spring 2026. He said Onondaga County is supportive of Jefferson County’s efforts.

**VIII. Unfinished Business:**

- 1. ARPA Fund Reports (Round One and Two)** – Updated spreadsheets showing the grant fund activities were provided in the board packet. Ms. Stephenson said there was some activity and payments made for the Hounsfield sewer project. She said there was a meeting with JCC and CAPC and indicated that she has a few invoices to be paid for childcare.
- 2. Nuclear Event** – Chairman Aliasso said an RFI will be released for one gigawatt of nuclear energy across the state. He said Assemblyman Scott Gray is holding an event called Nuclear 101 to be held at JCC on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Weir said NYPA is holding an initial RFI webinar today.

**IX. Counsel:** None.

**X. New Business:** None.

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- XI. Adjournment:** With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Warneck, seconded by Mr. Converse. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Sampson*