

FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 8:30-10:00am

Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Kathy Baker, Pete Bekisz, Lina Brennan, Deb Culeton, Mike Davis, Jennifer DeVault, Bob Doeblin, Sarah Eighmey, Tom Facer, Maria Fisher, Lynn Freid, Michelle Jungermann, Richard House, Michael Kauffman, Danielle Maloy, Michael Manikowski, John Mueller, Julia Murphy, Lori Parish, Joseph Pellerite, Bonnie Percy, Rick Plympton, Mitch Rowe, Michael Rusinko

Guests: Andrea McGraw, Christi Rollo, John Vrabel, Mark Waterstram, Mike Whirtley

Staff: Jordan Bates, Jen May, Debbie Sowards, Karen Springmeier, Jeff Weise, Michael Woloson

Absent: Zachary Brooks, Stan Knecht, Blair Morgan, Dr. Robert Nye, Dr. Vicky Ramos, Eileen Tiberio, Jona Wright

At 8:30 a.m., Mr. Plympton called the meeting to order. Roll call followed.

ECONOMIC NEWS AND UPDATES:

Economic Issues/Trends/Concerns:

Economic Development – Mr. Manikowski voiced a concern which is shared by many regarding the surge in COVID-19 cases. He also spoke of his worry about elective surgeries being cancelled or delayed due to hospital capacity.

Healthcare – Ms. DeVault shared that Thompson Health is bracing for a surge in positive cases and the hospital system is currently seeing more COVID-19 patients than in the beginning of the pandemic.

del Lago – Ms. Springmeier stated that the casino is laying off additional staff due to the state mandate that all businesses that hold a liquor license close at 10:00 p.m.

Dairy/Farming – Mr. Mueller shared that the harvest season was wonderful and the crops are in good shape. He also stated that most farms are ahead of schedule and the market is strong, especially with China again buying wheat. Milk will remain in high demand through the end of January and overall, it will be a good year for most farms. Ms. Eighmey stated the grape crop was beautiful and locals are returning to wineries as they are looking for activities out of their homes. Mr. Facer reported that the apple crop is down from projections, but the later varieties turned out nicely due to the rain in late September and October. The demand for apples and processed apple products is very strong.

Presentation – Independent Audit for PY'19, Mark Waterstram, The Bonadio Group

Mr. Waterstram reviewed the final report of the PY'19 audit. The audit showed no findings or areas of concern. Mr. Waterstram thanked the WIB staff for their cooperation throughout the process, which was different due to COVID-19 restrictions.

New Business/Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting

Resolution #05-20 Acceptance of Audit for PY'19

Resolution #06-20 Authorization for Lease Renewal with Geneva Housing Authority

Resolution #07-20 Approval of Intensive and Training Providers and Programs

A motion to approve minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting was made by Ms. Parish and seconded by Mr. Manikowski. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution 05-20 was made by Mr. Doeblin and seconded by Ms. Freid. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution 06-20 was made by Mr. Pellerite and seconded by Mr. Davis. Mr. Doeblin abstained. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution 07-20 was made by Mr. Manikowski and seconded by Mr. Facer. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance & Audit Committee – Mr. Doeblin stated that the committee last met on October 28th and voted to recommend approval of the PY'19 Audit. Mr. Doeblin thanked Mr. Waterstram and the WIB staff for their work on the audit.

Governance & Membership Committee – Mr. Manikowski shared that Christi Rollo, from Rochester Regional Health/Newark-Wayne Community Hospital, will be joining the Board as a healthcare representative from Wayne County. Karen Tyler, ITT/Goulds Pumps, will also be joining the Board. Ms. Tyler will be replacing Stan Knecht, who is leaving the Board due to a shift in his responsibilities at ITT. Ms. Springmeier stated that Ms. Brennan is helping to secure a healthcare representative from Seneca County and the Board will be set for re-certification in January.

Marketing & Communications Committee – The committee met on October 29th and were joined by Zach Case, of Generations Bank, who offered insight into the social media accounts operated by the FLWIB. Ms. Culeton also stated that the committee reviewed the latest Skill Up Finger Lakes numbers and committee Purpose Statement and learned more about job quality. The next meeting is scheduled for December 16th.

Performance & Evaluation Committee – Ms. Freid reported that at the October 27th meeting, the committee reviewed traffic to career centers and discussed challenges experienced by working parents due to remote learning.

Economic Development Committee – Mr. Manikowski stated that the committee will meet again on December 11th.

Youth – Ms. Parish shared that the committee met on November 12th and were joined by a representative from the new Youth provider, Community Schools Consortium, Jay Roscup. Mr. Roscup gave an overview of the concept of community schools. The next meeting is scheduled for January 13th.

FAME – Mr. Plympton noted that businesses are growing and getting back to hiring. They are, however, back in troubled waters due to COVID-19 spikes. Mr. Plympton also stated that Optimax participated in a successful virtual event hosted by the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership for NYS Manufacturing Day, on October 16th. Additionally, FAME's Image Committee is collecting video from manufacturers of tours of facilities and descriptions of their companies to curate a video library. Donations to the FAME scholarship are currently being sought.

Director's Report – Ms. Springmeier reported that Jordan Bates has been hired as a part-time Staff Accountant for the FLWIB. Additionally, Jeff Weise, Special Projects Workforce Advisor for the FLWIB, will be leaving the agency for a new position at Finger Lakes Area Counseling and Recovery Agency, at the end of the month. Mr. Woloson will be handling the transition of all Opioid and TET customers to career center staff. Ms. Springmeier also shared that Dr. Nye has been appointed as Co-Chair of the new SUNY Veteran and Military Action Council. Furthermore, Mr. Rusinko has joined the Finger Lakes Community College Board of Directors, along with Alé Mendoza, of Optimax Systems.

Presentation – *The Labor Response to COVID-19*, Mike Davis, IBEW Local 840 and Mr. Davis and Ms. Fisher gave a detailed overview of the unions that they represent, what the unions are doing to protect their workers during the pandemic and shared what is needed to continue supporting workers. The presentation in its entirety can be found at <https://fingerlakesworks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Labor-Response-to-COVID-19.pdf>.

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 20, 2021, via Zoom

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Rusinko and seconded by Mr. Facer. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer May, Executive Assistant