

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Conference Room B
Via Zoom
Friday, March 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Katie Bronson, Ariel Cardiel, John Celso, Sarah Davis, Jennifer Geiger, Steve Griffin, Andrea McGraw, Michael Manikowski, Julia Murphy, Rick Plympton, Mike Rusinko, Michael Sykes, John Vrabel

Guest: Joe Hamm

Staff: Michael Woloson

I. Presentation: New York State Department of Labor, Joe Hamm, Director of Regional Affairs

Mr. Hamm joined the group to offer details of the proposed state budget, which commits \$350m to workforce development. Of the \$350m: \$150m for Workforce Development grants; \$35m for Workforce Development Capital Fund program; \$10m to CUNY/SUNY internship programs; \$5m to strengthen apprenticeship programs; \$10m to implement an alternative teacher certification program; and \$11m to support the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Program.

Governor Hochul would also like to expand access to registered apprenticeships and extend the Apprenticeship Tax Credit. Additionally, she has a \$10b healthcare plan that supports investment in training and recruitment and includes cost of living adjustments. \$2.3b will be used to expand childcare access for 100,000 families.

II. Economic Development Updates (State of the County – Impact from COVID-19)

Yates County – Mr. Griffin shared that the county is still moving forward in development of their new corporate park. The county is seeing former high school graduates returning to the area and succeeding in various businesses.

Wayne County – Ms. Bronson introduced the county’s new Economic Development Specialist, Ariel Cardiel. Wayne County Economic Development and Planning has been busy with a new microburst grant program for new businesses located in Wayne County, which will provide the businesses with up to \$20,000. Under the grant, the business is required to be a LMI (low-to-moderate income) or hire a LMI employee. Wayne County continues to engage with middle and high schoolers through EdgeFactor. Last month, Wayne County Business Council, Macedon Public Library and Wayne County Economic Development Corporation hosted an online Women-owned Business panel. The event was well attended, with three businesses and thirty members of the public. The county has received funding from the NYS EDC for a business feasibility study. Several business parks are located in Wayne County and it has been a while since an analysis has been done of what resources are there and improvements needed.

Seneca County – Ms. Davis reported that the county is looking at developing a new industrial park, with the board having identified a possible location and have begun purchasing negotiations. Additionally, ITT Goulds Pumps has announced plans to close their foundry in Seneca Falls in the next two to three years, which will impact about fifty jobs. Seneca County is working with ITT to either keep the foundry open or transition those fifty employees to other areas within the company. del Lago’s parent company, Peninsula Entertainment has been sold to Churchill Downs. Changes to the company locally are not expected.

Ontario County – Mr. Manikowski stated that the county is focusing on building co-working spaces, with locations now existing in Geneva, Canandaigua and Victor.

III. Workforce Development Updates

Ontario County – Mr. Sykes – Communication with businesses regarding OJTs has increased, with summer work ramping up. Mr. Sykes noted that other businesses, though, aren’t focused on seasonal employees as they are still trying to fill their base staffing needs.

Seneca County – Mr. Vrabel – Seasonal staffing is now taking place in the wineries and the outlet mall.

Wayne County – Mr. Celso – Companies are trying to retain staff and are keeping on employees who would otherwise be let go for attendance/discipline issues.

IV. Finger Lakes WIB Update

Ms. Murphy shared that Wayne County DOL staff are working out of the Geneva location and providing virtual services to Wayne County residents. In February, 296 mandatory work search appointments were scheduled,

with 53% complying. 37% of those who didn't attend the appointments either had a back to work date or were already back to work. 311 customers were served over the phone.

Next meeting: June 2022

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.