

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Oneida County Industrial Development Agency  
Held on September 19, 2008 at the EDGE Offices,  
Rome, NY 13441**

**Members Present:** F. Betrus, N. Brown, M. Fitzgerald, D. Grow, M. Valentine

**Staff Present:** J. Castilla, S. DiMeo, S. Papale, M. Rizzo

**Others Present:** M. Murphy, L. Romano, L. Ruberto

Mr. Grow called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM.

Ms. Papale informed the Board that action on Champion Home Builders and Remet Corporation will be postponed until the next Agency meeting.

A Resolution approving the extension of a lease agreement between Special Metals Corporation and SAES Smart Materials, Inc. and the execution of the Amendment #1 to Lease Agreement was brought before the Agency. *A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Mr. Fitzgerald;* seconded by Mr. Valentine. The Resolution was unanimously approved.

A Resolution authorizing the execution of a State Assistance Contract, and the initiation of the second phase of environmental cleanup at the former Rome Cable site in Rome, New York, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through its Environmental Restoration Program was brought before the Agency. *A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Mr. Betrus;* seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. The Resolution was unanimously approved.

Mr. Grow introduced the discussion of Agency policy, which was the purpose of the meeting. Given the shift from a manufacturing dominant economy to a service and technology-based economy; there is a need for the Agency to review its policy and make adjustments that are responsive to the changing demographics of our region.

Ms. Romano explained to Members, the thought process that went into gathering and distribution the information Members had to review prior to the meeting. She explained the question to be answered by this meeting was whether the Agency would adopt a policy that accepts applications that are allowed by NY General Municipal Law or write a policy that is more restrictive than the law. She reminded Members that the Law governing IDA practice has restrictions in place to prevent situations where unfair competitive advantage is given to an applicant. Furthermore, Oneida County's economic status allows for more flexibility in the types of applications that can be accepted by the Agency.

Mr. DiMeo mentioned that there has been a change among towns and cities in that they have been driving to get more commercial development in their towns in order to collect the sales tax that is associated with the commercial development.

Discussion ensued. Staff was requested to provide the following:

- A copy of Real Property Tax Law §485-b
- List which municipalities offer §485-b benefits and which do not
- Demonstrate the impact the board actually makes when granting benefits. Unsure whether board is overestimating its impact; don't know unless they know the budget
- A recommendation by EDGE as to what kinds of projects will encourage economic development in the area
- Propose a policy that includes recommendations from the discussion that has taken place within this meeting; and has asked EDGE to list areas in the County with greater economic distress.

A special meeting will be held on October 15 to further discuss changes in policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawna M. Papale  
Executive Director