

ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD 9/25/13

MINUTES  
EDC SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 29, 2013

PRESENT

Paul J. Tonna, Chairman  
Peter Zarcone, Treasurer  
Steve Rossetti, Secretary  
Kevin Harvey, Member  
Grant Hendricks, Member  
David Rosenberg, Member

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Joanne Minieri, Vice Chair

ALSO PRESENT

Anthony N. Manetta, Suffolk County IDA CEO & Executive Director  
Daryl Leonette, Suffolk County IDA Administrative Assistant  
William Wexler, Esq., Agency Counsel  
Brendan Chamberlain, Aide to the Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislator  
James Madore, Sr. Business Writer/Economy Newsday  
Alan Kovesdy, Consultant for Financial Services for the Long Island Regional Planning Council  
Cara Longworth, Executive Director, Long Island Regional Planning Council

The Special Meeting of the Suffolk County Economic Development Corporation held in the Conference Room of the Agency, 100 Veterans Memorial Highway, H. Lee Dennison Building, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Floor, Hauppauge, NY was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC): Discussion.

Mr. Tonna presented Exhibit A. Mr. Tonna indicated there is only one item to bring before the Board today and that is the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC). Mr. Rossetti stated he believes the Meeting should be stopped because the funding request is defective since all items are addressed to the Suffolk County IDA and he believes we are putting ourselves in harm's way. Mr. Tonna thanked Mr. Rossetti for his comments. Mr. Tonna introduced Kara Longworth, Executive Director and Alan Kovesdy of the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) to the Board. Mr. Tonna asked the Board if they had any questions. Mr. Hendricks indicated that he is no longer a member of the Long Island Regional Planning Council as of August 19, 2013. Mr. Harvey asked what is Economic Development Corporation getting for their money and return on its investment. Ms. Longworth stated she was the Chief Financial Officer of the Nassau County IDA for several years and the taxes on Long Island are very high and we have transportation issues and lack of affordable housing. Ms. Longworth stated that the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) has developed a plan to help with these problems. Ms. Longworth indicated that some of the strategies that have already taken root are the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Buy Long Island First. Ms. Longworth stated making the public aware of the significant challenges facing the region and the strategies necessary to create an economically, environmentally and equitable sustainable future for the region. Ms. Longworth stated our website addresses the lack of a diverse housing stock; shortage of rentals and affordable homes and LIRPC will launch other issues as soon as we receive funding. Ms. Longworth indicated the website is [www.li2035.org](http://www.li2035.org). Mr. Rosenberg asked are you working on any other of these types of studies and is your primary focus on educating. Mr. Tonna responded stating that the LIRPC are thought leaders and they are here as a source to educate and this is a very important piece. Mr. Harvey asked is it considered a think tank and Mr. Tonna responded yes it is. Mr. Tonna stated LIRPC is a change agent for our region to succeed. Mr. Tonna stated that many of you have looked at this report and LIRPC is a great organization. Mr. Tonna stated the LIRPC is always looking for funding. Ms. Longworth stated that grants will not cover our operating costs. Ms. Longworth stated that we are a governmental entity. Mr. Harvey asked if the request is for \$125,000 for 2013 and Mr. Tonna said yes for right now. Mr. Harvey stated his concerns are with the EDC having limited funds. Mr. Hendricks stated that he is proud of his service with the Long Island Regional Planning Council the Council is like an extension of what we do and we have to help them. We have to help we have to work together to survive we need them and they need us. Mr. Zarcone asked how long has the Long Island Regional Planning Council been operating and Ms. Longworth stated the Council has existed for approximately 40 years. Mr. Zarcone indicated that he is not comfortable with the commitment of the full amount. Mr. Zarcone stated that he is very familiar with Buy Long Island First and not happy about out of state workers coming to Long Island for employment because he would rather have local workers getting these jobs. Ms. Longworth indicated that she has put together a committee for Buy Long Island First but they do not have the funding. Mr. Zarcone stated he thinks something should be done to keep companies on Long Island and we need to work on Legislation to keep them here. Mr. Manetta stated he agrees with Mr. Zarcone and he makes a great point that we want to be part of this. Mr. Wexler stated you use organizations like the Long Island Regional Planning Council to promote this. Ms. Longworth stated that we have not had financial support and we cannot plan for the future if we do not have the funding. Mr. Rosenberg stated he is prepared to vote on this for the short term in the amount of \$125,000.

Mr. Rosenberg stated he has an issue regarding the request to the EDC as it will use 30% to 40% of our reserve. Mr. Rosenberg stated this may be an economic issue as well this organization has always been funded by the County budget and for that reason I am concerned that we are not exercising independently. Mr. Rosenberg stated we are actually funding your operations and he recognizes you are in an extreme situation. Mr. Rosenberg stated he will have a serious problem in four months from now when you make a second request. We are not the County; we are a separate Agency. Mr. Tonna stated he was impressed with Mr. Rosenberg's statement. Mr. Tonna stated are we going to fund organizations that continue our mission and Mr. Rosenberg said he agrees and that he is conflicted. Mr. Rossetti indicated that if the IDA did not push through an initiative for the Regional Planning Association (RPA) this would be very different and he believes we should focus on downtown revitalization. Mr. Zarcone asked if the EDC approves the funding how long is that going to take you through and Ms. Longworth stated currently our costs are about \$25,000 a month and she can't say for sure. Mr. Zarcone asked if you are currently looking to hire a grant writer and Ms. Longworth responded we currently are working with the Regional Planning Association (RPA) on coastal area's in Connecticut researching grants can be a full time job. Mr. Rossetti asked if there has been any thought put into grass root fund raising and Mr. Tonna indicated they have not done that. Mr. Rossetti stated that he believes the funding request is defective since it states the funding will be coming from the IDA. The proper step should be to address the EDC Board and he asked Mr. Wexler if he is clearing this for a vote today. Mr. Wexler in response said this is a fairly common occurrence and an amendment can be made. Mr. Rosenberg asked Ms. Longworth if she could please address a new letter to the Chairman, Paul Tonna and forward it to the Suffolk County Economic Development Corp. Mr. Rosenberg asked Ms. Longworth if she will follow up with the letter and Ms. Longworth responded yes she will.

After further discussion and;

Upon a motion by Mr. Tonna, seconded by Mr. Zarcone, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve a funding request in the amount of \$125,000 to the Long Island Regional Planning Council.

Unanimously carried 5/1 with Mr. Rossetti not in favor.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tonna, seconded by Mr. Hendricks, it was:

RESOLVED, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Suffolk County Economic Development Corporation.

Unanimously carried 6/0.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

The next Meeting of the Suffolk County Economic Development Corporation is tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2013.