

**Watertown Empire Zone
Administrative Board Meeting
January 2006**

The Watertown Empire Administrative Board meeting was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 in the City Council Chambers, City Municipal Building, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York.

Members Present: Chairman Peter Clough, Bruce Dempster, James Fitzpatrick, Robert Lawlor, Phillip Gaffney, Tom Cesta and Peter Sovie

Also Present: Michael N'Dolo of Camoin Associates

Chairman Clough opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Dempster to approve the December ZAB meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Sovie and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Sovie presented the financial statement to the board.

Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired what the percentage rate is on the certificate of deposit.

Mr. Cesta replied that he would ask Mrs. Corriveau to check with Jim Mills for the best rate.

Mr. Mills told the board that the percentage for the HSBC certificate of deposit is 4.3%.

Mr. N'Dolo addressed the board regarding the Public Authorities Act. He said the governor recently signed the legislation, which states that board members can't have a financial interest in activities of the board.

Chairman Clough asked Mr. N'Dolo to check with Mr. Slye about the new law and asked if he should abstain from EDZ votes on City Council.

Mr. N'Dolo replied that that was not necessary and said the law refers to private entities.

Motion was made by Mr. Cesta to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lawlor and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Boundary Revisions

Mr. N'Dolo said that the state cannot give the official report on boundary revisions and there is still no indication of when the board will know. He said that the board can, however, vote on the certificate applications.

Chairman Clough showed concern that anyone who applies will be made aware of this delay.

Applications for Certification

Mr. N'Dolo reviewed the investments for Liberty Glass and investment dollars for Watertown Rx with the board.

Mr. N'Dolo stated that Purcell Construction wants three new additions on their certification.

Chairman Clough asked if there are three separate buildings and if Purcell owns them.

Mr. N'Dolo replied that there are three buildings and Purcell is leasing some. He said Purcell wants credit for the operations in those buildings. To get credit, the company has to be located in a particular area, they don't have to own it, he said.

Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired if three companies operated under the Purcell name and if the separate entities are being added to the application.

Mr. N'Dolo said they are separate entities but the locations are what is being added to the application. He stated that it is possible that two businesses would get Empire Zone credit for the one location.

He also told the board that Purcell Construction is asking the board if adding 30 jobs and \$300,000 in investments meets Empire Zone criteria.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he felt very uncomfortable with this situation.

Mr. Cesta said Purcell would get no credit if the three businesses added jobs, but were not under the Purcell name.

Chairman Clough asked Mr. N'Dolo if he would contact Purcell Construction to help clarify some concerns and questions of the board.

Motion was made by Mr. Sovie and Seconded by Mr. Gaffney to approve this application for certification. Motion was carried with everyone voting in favor thereof except Mr. Fitzpatrick who voted no.

Workshops in February and March

Mr. N'Dolo told the board he was asked to present at the Realtors Conference on February 7, 2006.

He said the next board meeting would be held Wednesday, March 22. Mr. N'Dolo said he would have presentations for local businesses interested in joining the Empire Zone.

Mr. N'Dolo asked the board what time they prefer to begin the meetings and general consensus was that the meetings begin at 4:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cesta, seconded by Mr. Sovie and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Amanda C. Lewis
Deputy City Clerk