

**Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: March 23, 2024 – 10:00 AM
LOCATION(S): KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Sperry
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran (left at 4:09 PM), Hewitt (arrived at 10:46 AM), Litts (arrived at 10:35 AM) & Walls
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislators Clinton & Stewart
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Maloney and Roberts; Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors interviewees (in order of appearance) Steve Kelley, Joseph Ferraro, Jacob Hennessey-Rubin, Kaustubh Wahal, Rachel Silverman, Mike Ham, Bruce McLean, Peter Lyons, Melanie Martin, Trevor Curwin, Philip Anderson

Complete audio content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature’s website at <https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/3.%20EDPEEAA%20Audio%20-%20March%2023%2C%202024%20.MP3>

Chair Sperry called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The members discussed whether to conduct the interviews in an Executive Session and ultimately decided to conduct interviews in an open meeting. Members were asked to complete a scoring sheet at the conclusion of each interview and provide the document to Deputy Clerk Mahler for compiling.

Chair Sperry informed the members that one applicant was traveling and unable for interview. She asked the members if they would like to invite the candidate to their April 2nd Regular meeting. The members agreed to invite Ryan Van Kleeck to interview on April 2nd.

Candidates appeared and were interviewed in the following order:

- Steve Kelley (current IDA Board member)
- Joseph Ferraro
- Jacob Hennessey-Rubin
- Kaustubh Wahal (current IDA Board member)
- Rachel Silverman (current IDA Board member)
- Mike Ham (current IDA Board member)
- Bruce McLean
- Peter Lyons
- Melanie Martin
- Trevor Curwin
- Philip Anderson

The following questions were asked of the interviewees:

New Applicants:

- 1) What is your understanding of the role of an IDA Board Member?
- 2) Have you spoken/communicated with the Executive or Executive staff on your desire to apply to be on the IDA?
- 3) Have you attended IDA meetings? If so, for what reason?
- 4) If appointed, will you be accommodating your schedule to attend all regular, sub-committee and public hearings?
- 5) Can you provide a hypothetical example of a great IDA project? Why?
- 6) What do you feel are some priority areas for businesses development in Ulster County? And What do you think are the most important issues the IDA will face over the next term?
- 7) What do you think is the relationship between the IDA and this Committee?

Returning Applicants:

- 1) How long have you served on the Board?
- 2) Why are you interested in continuing to serve?
- 3) What is your understanding of the role of an IDA Board Member?
- 4) Have you spoken/communicated with the Executive or Executive staff on your desire to apply to be on the IDA?
- 5) If re-appointed, will you be accommodating your schedule to attend all regular, sub-committee and public hearings?
- 6) As a current IDA Board member, share an accomplishment you are proud of and something you might like to change.
- 7) Can you provide a hypothetical example of a great IDA project? Why?
- 8) What do you think are the most important issues the IDA will face over the next term? And what are some priorities for business development in Ulster County?
- 9) What do you think is the relationship between the IDA and this Committee?

Additional questions, time permitting:

- 1) There are multi-facets to the role of an IDA Board Member, what do you think is the most important aspect of this role?
- 2) What experience do you have that will assist you in this role?
- 3) What ideas do you have regarding how the IDA could best work with county and municipal government?

Motion No. 1:	Motion to recess the meeting for lunch until called to order by the Chair
Motion Made By:	Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Criswell

Voting in Favor:	Legislators Corcoran, Criswell, Litts, Sperry, & Walls
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	5

Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Meeting recessed at 1:20 PM

Chair Sperry called the meeting back to order at 1:38 PM to continue scheduled interviews.

Motion No. 2: Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss candidates with Legislators and Legislative Staff permitted
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran
Voting in Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Sperry, & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Executive Session entered at 3:41 PM

Motion No. 3: Motion to exit Executive Session
Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell
Voting in Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Sperry, & Walls
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Executive Session exited at 4:28 PM

Chair Sperry announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session and asked the members if they had any further business.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0

TIME: 4:29 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Adopted: April 2, 2024

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