

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee
Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 9, 2020–9:00 AM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 969 5762 9276
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Brian Cahill
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Victoria Fabella, Jay Mahler, Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Archer, Thomas Corcoran, James Delaune,
Herbert Litts, III, Mary Beth Maio, Abe Uchitelle and Legislative Chairman David Donaldson
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Jonathan Heppner, Tracey Bartels, Laura Petit.

Note: Some Legislators entered and left the executive session during the meeting.

Chairman Cahill called the meeting to order at approximately 9 AM.

Motion No. 1: To enter into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Industrial Development Agency and discuss information recently received.

Motion By: Legislator Archer
Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio, Uchitelle and Donaldson

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Committee entered executive session at approximately 9:04 am.

During executive session interviews were conducted with:

M. Teresa Thompson
Rick Alfandre

At approximately 10:15 the committee came out of executive session.

The committee deliberated about how they would individually rank candidates and share that information.

The committee discussed the need for another meeting before session to finalize recommendations for Resolution No. 177 - Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors.

(See attached transcript)

Chairman Cahill asked if there was any other business, hearing none;

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 10:30 AM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: June 2, 2020

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QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Jonathan Heppner, Tracey Bartels, Laura Petit.

Note: Legislators entered and left during the meeting.

Cahill: Let's call this meeting to order, a meeting of the Economic Development Committee. I would like to make a motion that we move into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates, and also discussing information that was presented to us by email over the last couple of days.

Donaldson: Making a motion to go into Executive Session.

Litts: Second.

Cahill: Thank you very much. Deputy Clerk, Mahler, please cease recording at this point.

Recording discontinued during executive session

Cahill: To start recording again. Okay folks, so thank you very much for spending so much time on this over the last few days. It's been quite an experience.

So, then our next steps here are going to be to give our total, our candidate list to deputy clerk Tantillo, and then deputy clerk Tantillo will then circulate, do a tally sheet and, I guess, circulate that back out to the community.

Donaldson: Right. Are we putting our names to them? In other words, we give her our names are we at that point going to...

Cahill: Be anonymous on the tally sheet, is that your question?

Donaldson: Yes.

Cahill: Yeah, I think that that's probably a good idea. I mean, you know, that's my opinion. What do you, what does everybody think?

Donaldson: She could run it one by one so they'd be like, eight of them, that would add those tally sheets. Already write down and then we can take a look at those and then perhaps, all of us make some type of, you know, an internal decision and our, our, I might get that in my little pea brain, and maybe each one of us could and we can knock...

Tantillo: I made a spread sheet with all of the names

Cahill: Right, One through seven,

Tantillo: Should I just include, should I just include the committee in this ?

Donaldson: Yes, because it has to be a committee vote. Because other people were in and out. The committee members are the ones doing this. That's typically, that's why we have a committee system.

Cahill: Right. Legislator Archer, go ahead

Archer: How do we do this confidentially? Everything is being done electronically. It's not going to be confidential. If you are asking for that, everybody should just get this list, I don't think confidential does anything because somebody's still going to know. It's not confidential.

Donaldson: No, that's not the point. That's not the point we're pointing out. We know it's not necessarily confidential, it's the list. In other words, the people that are voting on this has to come from the committee. It's the committee voting because they are the ones that have been there every, for all the meetings and such of that nature, and that's the way the system works.

Now you could do, we could, say "That okay let everybody know how everybody voted". I mean, that's OK. You could find out. But I think the way, what we were looking at it is Fawn would have a, when she gets the...say she gets Tom's list and she puts down numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 that Tom listed. Then right next to that she'll have Jim's. It doesn't have to have the name on the top of it. Then she'll have Brian's.

So, in other words, so I know when I look at the list, I know which one was basically mine because I put it in. Because it matters that really it's shared but I think it, I don't know, to me it makes sense to not, so, trying not to influence the other one on your vote. I just think it's set up that way but maybe you got different opinions.

Cahill: Legislator Archer.

Archer: In the past we've always discussed candidates, and our ranking of candidates, so that people are understanding how people approach this. And could it have influence? Maybe. Could it not? Maybe. But I don't know, we've in the past we've talked about candidates.

Donaldson: Oh, yeah, I believe we would, but I think setting up the numbers first and then we'll come back and then go through that.

Cahill: Legislator Litts. Oh, sorry.

Donaldson: I mean if we had that like at the very beginning. If we have a clear thing and all of a sudden you see that and it's like everybody has five people on that list. Well, then we could turn around and say, "Well, that seems pretty solid." And then we can have that discussion and then we go back and forth on 6 and 7 or whatever that may be. I don't know if that's going to happen, it may happen. And I think Herb pointed out as you know he thought that that would happen, and it may or may not.

But I think, yeah, we still have those discussions after that, but I think the list makes sense and we could send that to Fawn right away and then regroup, regroup. And we also want to you know, find out other things with the attorneys. We do have to ask about (Alfandre).

Cahill: Legislator Litts.

Litts: How we've done it in the past: We each submit our priority list and that would go to Fawn. Fawn would take those lists and create a matrix that doesn't have our names on it but it's a matrix of all of this groups, in priority

Then that information will come back to the committee. We'll meet again and go through the matrix. "Listen, these five people are on everybody's list. Let's agree that that's our five." Then we would debate the merits of numbers six and seven which could be eight or nine, eight people, who knows.

But I keep my notes. So, we have that meeting. I regurgitate some of the things I wrote down or reasons why I gave somebody a marker, a high mark or a low mark. And then the committee would come to consensus and then we would have our seven people.

Cahill: Right, I think that's reasonable.

Litts: I think we are going to have six but that's okay.

Cahill: I think we're gonna' go 7 for 7, quite honestly. I think this committee is, we're locked in and we're gonna' get all seven agreed on the first vote.

(Laughter)

Litts: I hope we can without ramification.

Cahill: I'm just kidding. So, I think that that's a good plan.

Is there anything else that anyone wants to discuss while we're out of executive session today, in regard to this?

So, we'll get these to Fawn as quickly as we can. All right, and I'll send an email to Abe, who had to drop off. He told me ahead of time he was going to be leaving. So, we'll just send an email to Abe and let him know we need to do this right away.

Donaldson: And let's get in get an opinion from our attorney dealing with the last applicant. We need to have that immediately. And then I would suggest that we actually give Fawn on Monday after we have to get Chris on that applicant that has contracts with the county and see if there's a problem there.

Cahill: Okay.

Litts: If Fawn can send us out, you know, the list and we can fill in the seven. Then we can get right back to her and get going.

Donaldson: Wait until we get an opinion on the last applicant.

Cahill: But I don't know that we have to do that. I mean, if we have to scratch that name, we're going to probably be revisiting it anyway, right?

Donaldson: Okay. All right.

Cahill: So, I think it's better to have a base to start with as quickly as we can so that when we do get to the ones where we're going to have some you know discussion on, you know, we can have that discussion, right?

Donaldson: Sounds good. Okay.

Cahill: Okay. Anybody have anything else?

Donaldson: When do you want to get back to Fawn?

Cahill: I mean as soon as possible, I guess, right? I mean you know, maybe, if you guys want to wait and take some time over the weekend. I know some people have already made their decisions on what they're going to do, and they can submit it probably in five minutes. Other people may want to think about things over the weekend after the last two interviews. You know.

So, whenever you want to do it. I would say certainly by Monday morning. Right?

Donaldson: Okay.

Cahill: Right? Everybody agree with that? By Monday morning?

Donaldson: Sounds good.

Cahill: Okay. And then, then, when after that we will have another meeting.

Donaldson: I also want to...I want to nominate Tom Corcoran for the best dressed.

Cahill: Good. He does look good.

(Laughter)

Donaldson: He's lookin' pretty good there.

Archer: I like his color coordinated hat. That is the thing I really like.

Cahill: Right.

(Laughter)

Corcoran: It's my school colors, what am I gonna' I do?

Donaldson: We will have to issue him a Pride of Ulster County award.

Corcoran: Thank you, Dave.

Cahill: Again, I just want to say thanks again for putting up with this. I know it's hard and it got a lot harder today, I know right? And so, I do appreciate you taking the time. And, you know, I know we've eaten up a lot of your free time. As legislators you have a lot of other things that you have to do, and I do appreciate you doing this but the sooner we, you know, get this behind us I think the better, better off the county will be, quite honestly.

So again, thank you very much, and I will accept a motion to adjourn.

Litts: So moved.

Donaldson: I'll second it.

Cahill: All right. Thank you everyone. Have a good weekend. Thank you.