



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 22, 2023 TIMOTHY BURTIS, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Knapp, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. Garland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Olson

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Rowley, Mr. Ryan; also see attached

Chair Burtis called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

Chair Burtis stated that both resolutions will be considered, but there will not be a vote on either.

1. ONONDAGA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (OCIDA):

a. Confirming Appointments to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (Cydney Johnson, Elizabeth Dreyfuss)

Chairman Rowley presented this resolution and read the following statement:

Here today to consider 4 individuals for 2 seats on OCIDA board.

First let me start by saying all 4 individuals are exceptional and I appreciate their interest in serving. I don't think any of the individuals can be disqualified from serving based on their resumes – all are certainly qualified.

The task before the legislature is to determine who is in the best position to serve, and I believe this has to be decided within the context of the Micron project.

As committee members know the IDA has begun to acquire additional lands in support of supply chain companies who need to be close to the chip fabs. There will be additional PLA's that will need to be negotiated with regard to supply chain companies who need to construct facilities. I don't think it's in the best interest of the county to have IDA members who could be potentially conflicted and need to recuse themselves from voting on these potential agreements because of their positions within labor. Similarly, as committee members know the Legislature approved additional planning positions to assist with development plans needed to support an anticipated mini housing boom. The IDA has the potential to work with agencies within the housing sector and it would be less than ideal to have an IDA board member feel conflicted because of their role in one or more of these agencies.

One of my nominees is Cyd Johnson. She is a known quantity, very accomplished and plays a key role with SU's programming with Micron. She has a focus on diversity and workforce development within the veteran's community. I believe she served on the IDA many years ago and could hit the ground running.

Liz Dreyfuss is my other nominee. She has a strong real estate background and no one on the IDA board currently has this experience. With the anticipated housing developments coming with Micron, it would be great to have someone on the board who could address housing concerns realistically.

Again, all the individuals being nominated for seats on the IDA are qualified, but in my opinion, Cyd Johnson and Liz Dreyfuss are in the best positions to serve our taxpayers on this critical board.

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Why was the Chairman surprised to present the item?
 - Being lighthearted; these are the Chairman’s nominees
 - Like any other boards, want input as there are a number of boards with vacancies including: OCDC (Onondaga Civic Development Corporation), CRT (Cultural Resources Trust), CNY Regional Transportation, Human Rights
 - If anyone has people who would like to serve on these boards, please send them to the Chairman
- What is the political affiliation of the nominees?
 - Not sure; nominees had nothing to do with political affiliation; looking for qualified people
- Will the nominees be considered separately at session?
 - They will be considered as is on the resolutions
- Why do the nominees have to be considered in a group (2 and 2)?
 - As sponsor, the Chairman chose to have 2 nominees on one resolution

b. Confirming Appointments to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (Christopher Montgomery, Matthew Nesbitt)

Mr. Ryan presented this resolution.

- Consideration of appointees to IDA: Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Nesbitt
- Housing and real estate a big issue with Micron
 - Micron is a regional project, part of region is city of Syracuse
 - Will talk housing and how to do this as community
 - Want to have someone from the city for IDA
- Mr. Montgomery:
 - County Executive highlighted Blueprint 15 in State of the County – Mr. Montgomery a board member of Blueprint 15; will be a transformational project
 - Also involved with Syracuse Build and CNY Works (County Executive highlighted Syracuse Build as well)
 - Very involved with SUNY EOC (Educational Opportunity Centers) - pathways to apprenticeships
 - Knows how to get workers; understands will need a lot of them
 - Would be tremendous asset and great fit for IDA
- Mr. Nesbitt:
 - Many conversations with legislators over past 12 years about getting someone from specifically the Central-Northern New York Building & Construction Trades Council
 - They know PLAs, know laws, know how to get workers, do apprenticeship program, know insurance, know who is from out of town, and they are not giving tax breaks to developers that contract/subcontract out
 - Business manager for Iron Workers Local 60
 - Runs training program – workers that put up structural steel
 - There was a union member originally on IDA, but not only about the union
 - This is about having someone from CNY Building Trades on OCIDA; has not happened in last 12 years

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Is there a response to the previous statement about a union member possibly needing to recuse if on OCIDA?
 - Do not know why they would have to be recused; not aware of potential conflict
- What is their political affiliation?
 - Do not know; Mr. Montgomery worked with Dan Maffei, registered Democrat; do not know about Mr. Nesbitt
- Mr. Montgomery is a member of Blueprint 15; would there be an instance where OCIDA would vote on things with Blueprint 15, Syracuse Surge?
 - Believe Syracuse Surge is a mayoral thing on revitalizing
 - Do not know of building projects, besides the one across from JMA; not sure where the money would come from
 - Cannot say if that would go back through the IDA; there are county and state dollars going to it

- Not an OCIDA project
- STEAM project is there – have design; do not think there will be a PLA; do not think IDA would do that
- Relative to Southside and Syracuse Surge, do not know that there would be potential conflict
- Mr. Montgomery serves on the board, so if there were an issue, would he resign?
 - Would recuse
- Respect all 4 nominees for putting their name forward and wanting to serve and volunteer

Chair Burtis stated both resolutions have been considered.

- Sorry there cannot be separation (in regard to the resolutions) for bipartisanship for the nominees to be considered separately

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

DATE: **MARCH 22, 2023**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Darcie Lesniak	Leg
Jim Beebe	Leg
John DeSantis	Leg.