

**Tompkins County Development Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting Final Minutes
November 11, 2020
2:30 PM
Via Zoom Conference Call and LiveStream**

Present: Rich John, Jennifer Tavares, Martha Robertson, Mike Sigler, John Guttridge, Anne Koreman, Laura Lewis

Staff Present: Heather McDaniel, Chuck Schwerin, Ina Arthur (IAED), Russ Gaenzle (Harris Beach)

CALL TO ORDER

Martha Robertson called the meeting of the **Tompkins County Development Corporation** to order at 2:35 pm.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No comments from the public were submitted for this meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Support for Business Accelerator Project

Chuck Schwerin, Managing Director of Business Services IAED, addressed the board requesting support for a Business Accelerator Project.

To support a diversified economy in Tompkins County, IAED is undertaking a project to create a new business accelerator to house a cluster of businesses sharing a designated focus. Such an accelerator is meant to attract firms both within and beyond Tompkins County. To determine if there is a viable cluster of companies that would benefit from co-location, IAED has engaged the services of Galileo Technology Group. Galileo, facilitated by IAED this summer, undertook a SWOT analysis to determine the potential in the Ithaca area. A cross section of thought leaders met to evaluate the potential and determined that companies developing Assistive Technologies could be a viable candidate.

IAED is requesting \$20,000 from the TCDC to undertake a three-month pilot project to further assess its viability. Following this pilot, IAED and Galileo will assess the prospects for moving forward.

John Guttridge moved to approve the \$20,000 request from IAED to support a three month pilot project relating to creating a business accelerator in Tompkins County with Galileo Technology Group. Mike Sigler seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0.

Rich John joined the meeting.

CHAIRS REPORT - None.

STAFF REPORT

Heather McDaniel presented the 3Q Budget Report.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Laura Lewis pointed out that she was present at the October 14, 2020 TCDC Board meeting on the phone. The minutes will be corrected.

Martha Robertson moved the approved the October 14, 2020 TCDC Board meeting minutes as corrected. Laura Lewis seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

John Guttridge asked if there could be an updated on the ARC Grant since the TCDC awarded funds to support that effort. Heather McDaniel stated that preliminary work is being done and that there should be more information available at the beginning of 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Laura Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting. John Guttridge seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.