

**Tompkins County Development Corporation  
Board of Directors Meeting Final Minutes  
February 5, 2020  
Tompkins County Legislative Offices  
121 E. Court Street, Ithaca, NY**

**Present:** Rich John, Jennifer Tavares, Mike Sigler, John Guttridge, Laura Lewis, Martha Robertson, Leslyn McBean Clairborne

**Staff Present:** Heather McDaniel, Ina Arthur, Russ Gaenzle (Harris Beach, PLLC)

**Guests:** Gary Ferguson (Downtown Ithaca Alliance)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rich John called the meeting of the **Tompkins County Development Corporation** to order at 4:00 PM.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Request for Support for Downtown Ithaca Conference Center Project

Gary Ferguson addressed the Board. This request for support comes from the Downtown Ithaca Alliance and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The Conference Center project has had many years of work put into it and recently received NYS funding to move forward.

Rich John commented that this request is quite timely as the County just voted to move forward with support for this project.

John Guttridge stated that he is on the Board of Directors of the Downtown Ithaca Alliance. He will not benefit from the project, but the DIA will. Russ Gaenzle suggested that he should recuse himself from voting.

Jennifer Tavares stated that she would also recuse herself as the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation is part of the request and she is also part of the project.

The request is for \$50,000 in support of the project to support project management, legal and architectural design work costs.

**Laura Lewis moved to approve the request of \$50,000 for support for the Downtown Ithaca Conference Center Project to cover project management, legal and architectural design**

**work costs. Martha Robertson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-2 (Guttridge and Tavares recused themselves).**

#### **CHAIRS REPORT**

None.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

Heather McDaniel presented the fourth quarter 2019 financial report. She also reported that Cornell University is refinancing an older TCIDA Bond with taxable bonds through the Dormitory Authority. She indicated that the tax-exempt bond does have some onerous reporting requirements when they are used for multiple buildings with multiple uses.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Mike Sigler moved to approve the November 13, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Martha Robertson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

**The minutes were approved at the March 11, 2020 Board meeting.**