

**Sullivan County Funding Corporation  
One Cablevision Center  
Ferndale, New York 12734  
(845) 295-2603 – telephone  
(845) 295-2604 – fax**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, June 13, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Steingart called to order the special meeting of the Sullivan County Funding Corporation at approximately 11:37 am, held in the Legislative Committee Room at the Sullivan County Government Center, Monticello, New York.

**II. ROLL CALL**

***Members Present-***

Ira Steingart  
Suzanne Loughlin  
Sean Rieber  
Howard Siegel  
Charles Barbuti, Jr.  
Scott Smith  
Joseph Perrello  
Carol Roig

***Members Absent-***

Paul Guenther

***Staff Present-***

Edward Sykes, Executive Director  
Jen Flad, VP  
Julio Garaicoechea, Project Manager

***Staff Absent-***

None

***Others Present-***

Steve White, Agency CEO  
Walter Garigliano, Garigliano Law Offices  
Tara Lewis, Garigliano Law Offices  
Star Hesse  
Ken Walter  
Dan Hust, *Sullivan County Democrat*  
Hema Easley, *Times Herald-Record*

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

On a motion made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Mr. Barbuti, the Board voted and unanimously approved the minutes of the April 18, 2016 meeting.

**IV. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

On a motion made by Mr. Barbuti and seconded by Mr. Rieber, the Board voted and unanimously approved the schedule of payments.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

Board members discussed the **2016 grant application cost-sharing program**. Ms. Loughlin made a motion to authorize the cost-sharing program committee, which consists of Mr. Steingart, Mr. White, Mr. Rieber and Mr. Siegel, to approve payment of cost-sharing requests on behalf of the full Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perrello, the Board voted and the motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Loughlin, the Board entered Executive Session at approximately 11:43 AM to discuss the proposed lease of the red meat processing facility property.

On a motion made by Ms. Loughlin and seconded by Mr. Siegel, the Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 11:48 AM.

Mr. Rieber made a motion to discontinue efforts to develop the **red meat processing facility** project in the Village of Liberty. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, the Board voted and the motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Ms. Loughlin, the Board entered Executive Session at approximately 11:50 AM to discuss a new potential use and proposed lease of the property formerly identified as the red meat facility project property.

On a motion made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Mr. Barbuti, the Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 12:31 pm.

Chairman Steingart reminded the Board and others present that the Sullivan County Funding Corp. and the Industrial Development Agency, together with Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation, have been working together to develop a **food hub** in Sullivan County. He asked Ms. Flad for an update on this effort.

Ms. Flad explained that the food hub will be run by a not-for-profit corporation that is currently in formation, directed by Sullivan County farmers, restaurant and specialty shop owners, agency and organization representatives, and others. The food hub will provide a web-based matchmaking service to connect local and regional farmers and food producers with commercial and institutional buyers, and to educate these users. The former red meat facility building in the Village of Liberty has been identified as an ideal site for the related delivery service offered by the food hub. The creation of the hub will require funding and the not-for-profit in formation has requested funding from the Sullivan County Funding Corp. to pay for organizational and startup expenses, and to pay for capital expenditures to finish the building to house the project. Specifically, the food hub group has requested funding in the amount of \$100,000 to pay for initial costs including organizational

costs and consulting to refine the project plan, and additional funding in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to pay for capital expenses and to offset early operating losses. If approved, the up to \$400,000 request would be funded on a matching basis, with the Sullivan County Funding Corp. providing two dollars for every one dollar that the food hub raises from other sources.

Board members discussed various aspects of the food hub. Several members described the importance of this investment in the community, and the potential for the food hub to boost the County's economy, assist farms by opening up new markets, link our agricultural and hospitality industries, and improve the public health of the County. Members stated the importance of endowing the new not-for-profit so that it can assemble the resources to make the food hub sustainable in the long term. Board members agreed that the Board will recess this meeting and discuss a resolution to provide funding for this effort when it reconvenes.

Mr. Garigliano handed out a resolution authorizing the 2016 payment to **Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation**. This is an annual funding request. He reminded the Board that HVADC has been instrumental in the development of the food hub project and many other agricultural economic development projects undertaken by the Sullivan County Funding Corp. and the IDA. On a motion made by Mr. Barbuti and seconded by Mr. Siegel, the Board voted and the resolution was unanimously approved.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECESS**

Chairman Steingart asked the Board and those present if there were any questions or comments. The Board recognized the comments of Mr. Barbuti, speaking in his role as Town of Liberty Supervisor, and Ken Walter. There being no further comment, on a motion by Mr. Rieber, seconded by Ms. Loughlin, the Board voted and the meeting was recessed at approximately 12:51 PM, to be reconvened at 9:00 AM on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in this location.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jen Flad  
VP, Business Development