

FRANKLIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022  
Via Zoom Meeting and Livestreamed on YouTube

**REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Martin called the Regular Meeting of the EDC to order at 1:05 pm. Maria conducted roll call with the following people present:

Sherry Boyea  
Michael Doran  
James Ellis  
Stephen Erman  
Madelyn Fleury  
Justus Martin  
Jeremy Evans, CEO  
Maria Bourgeois, Operations Manager  
Rachel Child, Community Development Specialist  
Russ Kinyon, Director of Economic Development  
Absent: Archie McKee

Mr. Martin announced that he will be stepping down as Board Chair immediately and that Mr. Ellis as Vice-Chair will temporarily step in as Chair. He then read the following statement:

“As a longtime resident and business owner in Franklin County it has been my pleasure to serve as Board Chair of the Franklin County Economic Development Corporation. Due to recent decisions by the Franklin County Legislature regarding Tourism management and promotion that compromise our relationship as invested parties and after repeated conversations with County leaders in an attempt to encourage the legislators to reconsider the impact of their decision, I respectfully resign from my position as Board Chair of FCEDC.

While I do not agree with the decisions that were made and their ability to best reflect the interests of the people of Franklin County, what was most disturbing was the manner in which it came to pass. The motivation behind my years of leading the agency was to work towards trust and relationship but seeing that steps have been unapologetically made that have destroyed trust I cannot with a clear conscience lead an agency in opposition to its current elected leaders and neither can I clearly lead the agency in building a relationship with said leaders.”

After expressing his appreciation for Mr. Martin and all the work he has done for the betterment of the County and our Agency, Mr. Ellis assumed the role of Board Chair and conducted the rest of the meeting.

Accept Agenda: After Jeremy explaining that the board will go into Executive Session early, there was a motion to accept the agenda made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Boyea. All in favor.

Entered Executive Session at 1:10 pm for the purpose of discussing contractual and personnel matters on a motion by Mr. Erman, seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor.

Maria Bourgeois, Russ Kinyon and Rachel Child left at this time.

Exited Executive Session at 2:53 pm on a motion by Mr. Erman, seconded by Ms. Boyea. All in favor.

Public Comment Period: Mr. Erman then read the following statement: “I am both embarrassed and disappointed by this ill-informed decision by the County Legislature and especially the role of my home district legislator, Lindy Ellis. It appears to me that Legislator Ellis, as chairperson of the Legislature’s Economic Development Committee, could not rise above petty political considerations in Saranac Lake in order to advise her colleagues to follow the recommendation of the County’s Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC had urged the Legislature to renew its contract with the Franklin County Economic Development Corporation as its Tourism Promotion Agent. That would have been in the best economic interest of Franklin County and its 19 constituent towns.”

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Ms. Fleury asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that there would be an overall credit limit added to the credit card policy rather than a monthly limit. Being in agreement with this correction, the EDC board approved the Annual/Regular meeting minutes of January 18, 2022 and the Special Meeting minutes of February 1, 2022 on a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Fleury. All in favor.

Bills and Communications: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Treasurer’s Report: Jeremy reviewed the January 2022 financials with the board, noting that we don’t have the year to date report set up yet as budgets are not entered into QuickBooks.

- Motion to accept the January 2022 financial reports by Ms. Fleury, seconded by Ms. Boyea. All in favor.

Old & Unfinished Business: The Board would like to hold a special meeting in two weeks but the time and date is to be determined.

New Business:

Resolution #2022-05 Approve MOU with Village of Tupper Lake: Jeremy presented this resolution to the board.

- Motion to accept Resolution #2022-05 as presented made by Ms. Boyea, seconded by Mr. Erman. All in favor.

Adjournment: After stating that the next regular meeting of the EDC is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 1 pm via Zoom meeting and with no other business to conduct, Mr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm on a motion by Mr. Erman.