

To: **WCLDC Board Members**
Re: **Minutes of June 23, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Present: Peter McDevitt – Chair
Mike Wild - Vice Chair
Craig Leggett – Treasurer
Gene Merlino – Assistant Treasurer
Robert Landry - Secretary
Travis Whitehead – Director

Absent: Brad Magowan – Director

Guests: Robert Terwilliger – Assistant County Attorney
Liza Ochsendorf – Director of Warren County Employment & Training Administration
Lynn Sickles – Southern Adirondack Child Care Network

Staff: Jim Siplon – WCLDC President
Linda Oldenburg - Economic Development Coordinator
Diane Dumouchel – EDC Finance/Compliance Director

On June 23, 2022, the Board of Directors for Warren County Local Development Corporation met in person at Warren County Board Room (the meeting was also available via zoom and live on Warren County’s YouTube Channel). The following items of business were discussed:

- I.** **Welcome & Call to Order:** WCLDC Chair, Peter McDevitt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. with a roll call.
- II.** **Approval:** Approval of Board meeting minutes held April 21, 2022. All minutes were forwarded to the board for review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chair Wild seconded by Assistant Treasurer Merlino, and unanimously approved with a roll call vote.
- III.** **Financial Update:** EDC Finance/Compliance Director Dumouchel reviewed the WCLDC April and May 2022 financials, highlighting that all scheduled loan payments have been received. A motion is made by Treasurer Leggett, seconded by Vice Chair Wild and unanimously approved with a roll call vote.
- IV.** **Child Care:** Based on previous board discussions on areas of potential investments for the WCLDC to consider. Lynn Sickles from Southern Adirondack Child Care Network spoke to the board how the pandemic illuminated how indispensable childcare is for the wellbeing and economic security of our children, families, businesses, and our communities. Childcare supply was already dwindling before the pandemic began, with the major loss of programs that happened during the pandemic, the childcare industry, locally and statewide, nationally is in a serious crisis. That impacts families and it’s going to impact businesses and childcare professionals as wells. Lynn referenced the recent community needs assessments that, paints a dire picture of the lack of childcare here in Warren County exacerbated by the COVID period with as much as 40% of area childcare capacity, lost due to program closures. Ms. Sickles invited the WCLDC to work with her and other area organizations to seek collaborative solutions to this critical economic and community need.

Workforce: Liza Ochsendorf from Director at Warren County Employment & Training Administration shared with the board about the home-based childcare grant project that she has been working on. There was a community project proposal grant that was put together from a group to essentially recruit, train, and open more home-based providers. Southern Adirondack Childcare Network does the majority of the training, as well as Brightside Up which is in Saratoga County. With opening these home-based providers, is that they need startup costs, along with mentoring and support. Liza spoke that childcare crisis is not only going to be solved by public dollars, but businesses are also beneficiaries of childcare. With the grant money the goal is to open up as many as ten more home-based providers in Warren County and ten more in Saratoga County. Liza went on to say that part of the proposal is that we also build a sustainability fund that businesses or individuals can contribute to. So, with our project, we hope to open a fund where people can donate. We are looking for an agency or organization who'd be willing to hold the account, we would have a committee that reviews applications. A committee of public, and private sector folks who care about children, who will review applications and determine who will receive additional funding to keep their business going, it's not just about opening them but sustaining them.

V. Land Bank: Treasurer Leggett mentioned the next land bank round table is June 29, 2022.

VI. President & CEO Report: President Siplon stated there were two additional FOILs added to the spreadsheet since last month. President Siplon suggested that at some point the WCLDC make some sort of statement around a number of loan recipients retiring their loans. So, the community is aware of the businesses have been able to successfully navigate the programs. Last items President Siplon talked about was the contract between the EDC and the WCLDC as the only thing that had changed from the previous year was just the dates to reflect 2022 instead of 2021 and the RFQ for Legal has been executed.

VII. Executive Session: A motion was made by Vice Chair Wild and seconded by Assistant Treasurer Merlino to enter an Executive Session to discuss the new details associated with several loan recipients that are in settlement discussions executive session began at 12:09 pm and concluded at 12:20 pm Regular meeting resumes with no action taken in executive session.

VIII. Approved Resolutions A motion was made by Director Wild seconded by Treasurer Leggett, to approve the 2022 contract between EDC and WCLC and was carried by roll call vote of five to one (Director Whitehead no).

IX. Other Business:

IX. Adjournment: Upon no further business to come before the board, a motion is made by Vice Chair Wild, seconded by Assistant Treasurer Merlino and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 pm.