

AIDA/CCIDA Joint Audit Committee Meeting
Friday, February 19th at 9:30 am
Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce First Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Frank DeRosa, Bob Byron, Ray Lockwood, Paul Lattimore, Andrew Fish, Tracy Verrier, Michelle Prego-Milewski (Staff)

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum.

PILOT COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Mr. DeRosa said that there is a possibility that one AIDA's PILOTs have not complied with employment goals and Ms. Verrier said she is looking into the dates and the actual language of the PILOT. She said there are competing dates that could be the result of a type-o. Mr. Byron said there is a question of 35 people being hired. Mr. Verrier said that includes the employees of everyone that is leasing spaces at AT Walleys, Prison City, yoga studios, etc. She said that she is talking with Joe Bartolotta today and will get more information. Mr. Fish said it's a unique situation, but part of the qualifiers was new businesses.

Mr. DeRosa asked if CCIDA has something like the AIDA job policy, and Ms. Verrier said that it does. He said he has thought about drafting a letter to explain what the committee would require for the intern to actually audit. He said the committee can talk about how to protect confidentiality. Mr. DeRosa said the first page of the report has the number of employee, and it would be a big help to access the numbers that are being reported; and to establish a baseline and go forward with that. Mr. DeRosa said that residents are looking at the St. John St. project and saying that they haven't done anything, and it would help to dispel the myth that businesses are not complying with PILOTs. He said that if the committee develops audit principles than someone else can work with the intern and he can stay neutral.

Ms. Verrier noted that the joint audit committee can have more members, and she can create something where AIDA looks exactly like CEDA for continuity. Mr. Fish said that Jenny Haines had created the certain spreadsheet per request of City Council. The similar CCIDA document talks about job creation. Mr. DeRosa asked Ms. Verrier to modify the start year to the start date. Ms. Verrier said she will do that, and update the information with the 2015 data.

Mr. DeRosa asked about the progress of the AIDA audit. Ms. Verrier said that AIDA was the third or four IDA out of six, and that it was entirely possible that the board wouldn't hear for a while. Mr. DeRosa requested information from the exit interview to make sure there isn't duplication, and Ms. Verrier said she will send it out.

Mr. DeRosa discussed the self-evaluation forms and said he's not sure if board members completely understand their responsibility. He said that he had trouble understanding the questions. Ms. Verrier said that the audit process will try to get most of the reporting done and show the board what is actually being reported. She noted that it may not be understood.

Mr. DeRosa said it's easy to become complacent, just to answer questions to put down a reply. He said in most cases not all of the questions are understood. Mr. Fish said that all of the PARIS reports are on the website, that it was part of the open meetings law. Mr. Lattimore asked if the boards vote on what is distributed to PARIS. Ms. Verrier said that the board votes on the financials, but not the actual report.

Mr. DeRosa asked what the difference was between an agency and an authority. Mr. Fish said the only real difference is the number of seats and geographical restrictions. Mr. DeRosa wanted to know how CCIDA and CEDA determined their results and progress. Mr. Fish said that he believes that CEDA's mission and goals are directly in line with the IDAs. He said that the CEDA board receives a dashboard and an annual report.

Mr. DeRosa said he is thinking what the litmus test should be and mentioned the Moody Report, which still has a negative outlook. He said the boards should use a couple of things to help determine progress on a regular

basis. Mr. Lockwood said that the CEDA dashboard may be useful, and Mr. Fish said that staff will pass it along, but it's a new document that is still improving.

Mr. Lattimore said that he thought that there wasn't a reason that the IDA boards don't get the dashboard and activity reports. Mr. Fish said that the thinking behind it was that the board chairs would filter down the information they saw fit.

Mr. DeRosa said the city and county spend a lot of time on the budget, but isn't sure if they're looking into the future, such as infrastructure and 5-year forecasts. He said that it seems like there are a lot more issues and said it was like crisis management. Mr. Lockwood said that there are thoughts of planning for it, but no one wants spend the money. He said there is never a good budget year.

Mr. Fish said that having a strong human service base is critical. He said it is difficult for the IDAs to expand their scope to encompass items such as infrastructure. Mr. Fish said that to try to come in from a holistic approach is difficult, despite the fact that it is important. He said the IDAs have to look at what resources and tools they have, other than standing up and saying "this is important." Mr. Fish said the IDAs grow businesses to increase the tax base. He said that there is an effort as a whole for government modernization, but he just doesn't know if the IDAs are the vehicle for that.

Mr. Byron said he would like for the actual projects to be reviewed. He said no one is looking at the outcome to make sure that the projects adhered to their game plans. Mr. Byron said it's easy to cost-justify a project if you know what you're talking about.

Mr. DeRosa said that the audit will be an avenue to share knowledge. He said that he keeps coming back to Ms. Verrier's economics degree, and that he isn't sure anyone in the city or county has that. He said he wasn't sure everyone is looking at the big picture.

NEXT STEPS

Mr. Fish said that staff will check in with the independent auditors and the college. Mr. Lattimore suggested Wells interns, and Mr. Fish said that was a great idea but the problem may lay in the logistics.

The Joint Audit committee's next meeting will be at 2:30 on March 15, and both committees will meet with their respective auditors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.