

Town of Rotterdam
IDA Board Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008

The following members were present:

Angelo Santabarbara
Alex Stramenga
William LaRoe
Joseph Sicillia
Paula Marshman
Gerald Parisi, Counsel

The following members were absent:

Sharon Lair
Robert St. John

Note for the record that a quorum of members were present.

Call to Order by Chair Santabarbara. Roll Call by Paula Marshman with those present noted above.

Public Hearing – SI Group, Inc. Project

The following statements were made to the IDA Board:

Tom Tice – balance of jobs vs. tax benefits and fair evaluation assessment for businesses as well in the Town. Questioned if SI's financial situation has been analyzed in order to know if PILOT is necessary to keep the business in the Town.

Bob Godlewski – All industry is struggling but so are taxpayers and their needs need to be taken into consideration. Important to consider benefit to SI and would like to see graph of revenues and expenditures over a 15 year period. Questioned if Town Assessor was given necessary information and suggested Assessor be involved in the decision-making process. He suggested that hearing be kept open due to inclement weather, and also questioned if Empire Zones were an alternative for the SI.

Mary Berry – Ms. Berry represented the Town Conservation Council and supports projects as is. SI's current environmental compliance track record is due to an outstanding consent order and new management. She asked if it was possible to add a provision to revoke the PILOT if SI does not stay in compliance.

With no other statements, Alex Stramenga made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Bill LaRoe.

SI Group Presentation:

Bill Sheffer, SI North America Group, and Mark Lansing, SI Counsel, presented the following:

- Facility continues to be confronted with rising energy prices
- Have reduced labor expenses due to attrition
- Expect to stabilize fuel costs through the Greenfield biomass boiler project which uses waste wood chips to make steam and electricity.
- SI wants to help support tax base
- Project estimated at \$12M. and will analyze costs/benefits of project
- Tax certainty of the proposed PILOT is critical to SI in order to remain competitive

Alex Stramenga made a motion to have the IDA Board go into Executive session, seconded by Bill LaRoe.

Executive Session convened.

After the Board reconvened, Mr. Parisi summarized the process pertaining to the SI Group project application as follows:

- Process began several months ago with focus on payment schedule
- 90% of anticipated taxes back up to that amount.
- SI Group would waive refunds on impending litigation of approximately \$1M to \$1.5M
- Town will avoid more than \$150K of cost of litigation
- Important for SI Group to remain in Rotterdam and preserve jobs
- SI Group will provide site for water tower
- SI Group will address environmental concerns to community givebacks.
- Schalmont school district is receiving an additional \$30K

Motion to approve the PILOT for the SI Group made by Alex Stramenga and seconded by Joe Sicilia. Roll call of all members present: all voted yes.

A motion to authorize change was made by Bill LaRoe, seconded by Joe Sicilia. All were in favor and motion passes.

Regular Meeting Agenda

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly report submitted by Alex. Motion to accept made by Paula, seconded by Bill, all in favor and motion passes.

Check from the Galesi Group to be deposited and an invoice for the new website submitted.

The 2008 budget is presented to the Board. Motion to approve budget made by Alex, seconded by Joe, all approved.

Committee Reports:

Audit - Sharon is moving forward with the preparation of the annual report, with Cusack to provide audit.

Governance – no report

Special Reports:

IDA Website – Bryan needs to work with Marlo to transfer name

Planning Board – no report

Unfinished Business:

SI Group – handled previously in meeting

Rotterdam IDA Small Business Grant Program – Board approved 8 grants at last meeting, and grant disbursements prepared.

Hamburg Street/Exit 25 Land Use Transportation Study - Synthesis, as planning consultant, to prepare report for \$4500.

New Business:

None to report

Announcements:

None to report

Discussion:

Hamburg Street Merchants – Angelo reported that they are pleased with the IDA’s assistance.

Center for Economic Growth (CEG) – to be discussed at next meeting.

Contact list and meeting schedule – Marlo needs to provide contact list to all members.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Alex, seconded by Joe, all in favor and motion to adjourn passes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paula Marshman