

Executive Board Meeting
September 8, 2023 at 12:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown

The Executive Board met on Friday, September 8, 2023 at noon at the Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown. In attendance were Robert Aiken, Rod Castillo, Matthew Cooper, Jody Pettit, Angel Munson, and Executive Director Cheryl Mayforth.

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The agenda for the upcoming September 21, 2023 Board meeting was reviewed and discussed. Director Mayforth introduced the new Secretary at the Workplace to the Board.

Director Mayforth discussed Resolution 212 whereby Ms. Mayforth has been authorized to hire an Assistant Director. The position will be posted outside the department. She will form a committee to interview candidates. Secretary Aiken mentioned he would be available to be on the committee and requested a copy of the job description.

Director Mayforth mentioned that Justin Keegan of WPBS will be the guest speaker at the September 21st WDB Board Meeting. He will do a presentation on the WPBS website called My GPS for Success. We are updating the site to be more inviting to our youth, which will have a game-like appearance. WPBS will be coming over on September 20th to do some filming of our recruiters. This project will focus on the interview process for the Youth and Young Adult job seekers. Second Vice Chair Castillo commented he was part of My GPS for Success. Mr. Aiken mentioned it is a good program. Ms. Munson added the website is down until December.

The next topic of discussion was Resolutions 23-01, 23-02, and 23-03. We have updated the ITA and OJT policy. We can transfer Dislocated Worker funds over to Adult and anyone collecting unemployment is eligible.

Chairman Cooper inquired on the status of Jain Irrigation Systems. Director Mayforth stated the company has closed. She discussed there were about 30 employees affected; 2 went to the New England facility, 4 went to Knowlton, 5 will work with Jain remotely and 14 employees will remain in the building to wrap-up closing. Per the Jain Plant Manager, they had prospective buyers tour the building, however, no results at this time.

First Vice Chair Pettit asked about the Fort Drum area regarding local employment opportunities. Discussion followed on the difficulty to commute to Syracuse for jobs. Companies want to hire 3,000 folks, but not in the Watertown area. Director Mayforth stated population is down in the north country. Local companies are out-sourcing. Unemployment is low now and an uptake in folks to get training. We could see a fluctuation in funding and may lose some funding due to budget talks and possible government shut down. The group discussed the need for nurses and JCC is working on strategy to increase completion.

Chairman Cooper made a motion to adjourn the Executive Board meeting. Mr. Aiken seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.