

2009 Operations and Accomplishments

Town of Bethlehem Industrial Development Agency

2009 saw the collapse of financial institutions across the United States and the bottom of the worst recession since the 1930s. Economic development was hard to come by in 2009.

Against this backdrop, the Agency's operations and accomplishments in 2009 were as follows:

- The Agency provided financial assistance to America Housing Foundation, Inc. and modified the payment in lieu of tax agreement of Selkirk Cogen Partners, L.P. to provide for monthly payments instead of semi-annual payments.
- The Agency continued to support the Town's Bethlehem 20/20 planning initiative which calls for the development of a long term needs assessment, development of a long term tax base analysis to quantify the tax base and diversification goals, development of a marketing and communications program and development of a community compact on principles, goals and objectives for the year 2020 and continuation of the existing business development and retention program.
- The Agency continued with the management of the NYS Department of Transportation Grant of \$1,300,000.00 to design and construct a rail sidetrack at 158 West Yard Road, to enhance the Selkirk Ventures Project. The project is on hold while CSX plans for and constructs a new main track adjacent to the project.
- The Agency continued to support the Town's planning initiatives for the Capital District Transportation Committee & NYS Department of Transportation - 2009 Grant Programs; the 9W Corridor Study, the Clapper Road Interchange Feasibility Study, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, the Delaware Avenue Hamlet Enhancement Study, the New Scotland Road Hamlet Master Plan, the Open Space Plan and the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.
- The Agency negotiated a 2009 Service Agreement with the Town pursuant to which the Town provides professional services to the Agency.
- Representatives of the Agency participated on the Flags and Flowers Committee. Flower baskets and banners were hung on utility poles along Delaware Avenue to enhance the Delaware Avenue business district.
- The Agency filed its Audited Financial Statement for 2008 on the Public Authorities Reporting Information System ("PARIS") which also constituted the Agency's Annual Report for 2008. The Audited Financial Statement for 2008 was posted on the Agency's website (www.bethlehemida.com).

- The Agency's Policy Manual continues to be posted on the Agency's website.
- The Agency and the Town hosted a series of meetings of business, government and economic development leaders for an interactive discussion of business retention and development opportunities in the Selkirk Yards Industrial District. The Agency and the Town also met with the leaders of SABIC and Selkirk Cogen to consider the feasibility of providing low cost power to SABIC and to other nearby industrial users.
- The Agency supported the application of World Logistics Group, Inc. for certification as a regionally significant warehousing distribution firm pursuant to the Albany County Empire Zone program. The Empire Zone Designation Board approved World Logistics as a "regionally significant" project effective 1/1/08.
- The Agency continued to support the Vista Technology Campus project which calls for construction of a 40,000 square foot building and roads and infrastructure to support the future development of a 1.4 million square foot campus.
- The Agency continued with its monthly electronic bulletin about newsworthy economic developments in the Town.