

INITIAL RESOLUTION

(Empire Long Distance Corporation & Empire Telephone Corporation Project)

A regular meeting of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency was convened on Thursday, August 24, 2023.

The following resolution was duly offered and seconded, to wit:

Resolution No. 08/2023 - _____

RESOLUTION OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (THE "AGENCY") (i) ACCEPTING THE APPLICATION OF EMPIRE LONG DISTANCE CORPORATION AND EMPIRE TELEPHONE CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO A CERTAIN PROJECT (AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED BELOW), (ii) AUTHORIZING THE SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT, (iii) DESCRIBING THE FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BEING CONTEMPLATED WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT, AND (iv) AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, by Title 1 of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, as amended, and Chapter 178 of the Laws of 1972 of the State of New York, as amended (hereinafter collectively called the "Act"), the **STEUBEN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY** (hereinafter called "Agency") was created with the authority and power to own, lease and sell property for the purpose of, among other things, acquiring, constructing and equipping industrial, manufacturing and commercial facilities as authorized by the Act; and

WHEREAS, **EMPIRE LONG DISTANCE CORPORATION AND EMPIRE TELEPHONE CORPORATION**, for themselves or on behalf of an entity formed or to be formed by it or on their behalf (collectively, the "Company"), has submitted an application (the "Application"), a copy of which is on file with the Agency, requesting the Agency's assistance with respect to a certain project (the "Project"), consisting of: (i) the acquisition by the Agency of a leasehold interest in approximately 7.4 acres located at County Route 74, State Route 53 and 10632 S. Main Street, Town of Prattsburgh, New York and all other lands where by license or easement or other agreement the Company or its designees are making improvements that benefit the Project (the "Land", being more particularly identified as all or portions of tax parcel numbers 048.05-01-018.120; 048.05-01-026.000; 048.05-01-021.000; 048.05-01-022.000; 048.05-01-024.000; 047.00-01-002.200 and 047.00-01-095.000) and the approximately 13,200 existing facility located thereon (the "Existing Improvements"); (ii) the planning, design, construction and operation on the Land of an approximately 24,000 square foot building consisting of approximately 20,000 square feet of warehouse space and approximately 4,000 square feet of administrative space, along with utility and site improvements, parking, access and egress improvements, signage, curbage, sidewalks, landscaping and stormwater improvements

(collectively, the "Improvements"); and (iii) the acquisition of and installation in and around the Land and Improvements by the Company of machinery, equipment, fixtures and other items of tangible personal property (the "Equipment"; and, together with the Land, the Existing Improvements and the Improvements, the "Facility"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law the Agency desires to adopt a resolution describing the Project and the Financial Assistance (as defined below) that the Agency is contemplating with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, it is contemplated that the Agency will hold a public hearing and (i) negotiate and enter into a project agreement, pursuant to which the Agency will appoint the Company as its agent for the purpose of undertaking the Project (the "Project Agreement"), (ii) negotiate and enter into a lease agreement (the "Lease Agreement"), a leaseback agreement (the "Leaseback Agreement"), and a payment-in-lieu-of-tax agreement (the "Tax Agreement"), (iii) take a leasehold interest (or other interest) in the Land, the Existing Improvements and the Improvements and personal property constituting the Facility (once the Lease Agreement, the Leaseback Agreement and the Tax Agreement have been negotiated), and (iv) provide Financial Assistance to the Company in the form of (a) a sales and use tax exemption for purchases and rentals related to the acquisition, construction, and equipping of the Facility and (b) a partial real property tax abatement structured within the Tax Agreement (collectively, the "Financial Assistance").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Company has presented an Application in a form acceptable to the Agency. Based upon the representations made by the Company to the Agency in the Company's Application, the Agency hereby finds and determines that:

(A) By virtue of the Act, the Agency has been vested with all powers necessary and convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of the Act and to exercise all powers granted to it under the Act; and

(B) The Agency has the authority to take the actions contemplated herein under the Act; and

(C) The action to be taken by the Agency will induce the Company to develop the Project, thereby increasing employment opportunities in Steuben County, New York, and otherwise furthering the purposes of the Agency as set forth in the Act; and

(D) The Project will not result in the removal of a civic, commercial, industrial, or manufacturing plant of the Company or any other proposed occupant of the Project from one area of the State of New York (the "State") to another area of the State or result in the abandonment of one or more plants or facilities of the Company or any other proposed occupant of the Project located within the State; and the Agency hereby finds that, based on the Company's application, to the extent occupants are relocating from one plant or facility to

another, the Project is reasonably necessary to discourage the Project occupants from removing such other plant or facility to a location outside the State and/or is reasonably necessary to preserve the competitive position of the Project occupants in their respective industries; and

Section 2. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and/or Executive Director of the Agency are hereby authorized, on behalf of the Agency, to (A) hold a public hearing in compliance with the Act, and (B) negotiate (1) the Project Agreement, pursuant to which the Agency appoints the Company as its agent to undertake the Project, (2) the Lease Agreement, pursuant to which the Company leases the Project to the Agency, (3) the related Leaseback Agreement, pursuant to which the Agency leases its interest in the Project back to the Company, (4) the Tax Agreement, pursuant to which the Company agrees to make certain payments in lieu of real property taxes for the benefit of affected tax jurisdictions, and (5) related documents; provided (i) the rental payments under the Leaseback Agreement include payments of all costs incurred by the Agency arising out of or related to the Project and indemnification of the Agency by the Company for actions taken by the Company and/or claims arising out of or related to the Project; and (ii) the terms of the Tax Agreement are consistent with the Agency's Uniform Tax Exemption Policy or the procedures for deviation therefrom have been complied with.

Section 3. The Agency is hereby authorized to conduct a public hearing in compliance with the Act.

Section 4. The officers, employees and agents of the Agency are hereby authorized and directed for and in the name and on behalf of the Agency to do all acts and things required and to execute and deliver all such certificates, instruments and documents, to pay all such fees, charges and expenses and to do all such further acts and things as may be necessary or, in the opinion of the officer, employee or agent acting, desirable and proper to effect the purposes of the foregoing resolutions and to cause compliance by the Agency with all of the terms, covenants and provisions of the documents executed for and on behalf of the Agency.

Section 5. In the event that (a) the Company does not proceed to final Agency approval within six (6) months of the date hereof and/or (b) close with the Agency on the proposed Financial Assistance within twelve (12) months of the date hereof, the Agency reserves the right to rescind and cancel this resolution and all approvals made hereunder or under any other Agency resolution or action.

Section 6. These Resolutions shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Mark R. Alger	[✓]	[]	[]	[]
Scott J. VanEtten	[✓]	[]	[]	[]
Anthony Russo	[✓]	[]	[]	[]
Dean Strobel	[✓]	[]	[]	[]
Mike Davidson	[✓]	[]	[]	[]
Christine Sharkey	[✓]	[]	[]	[]
Michelle Caulfield	[]	[]	[]	[✓]

The Resolutions were thereupon duly adopted.

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION
(Empire Long Distance Corporation Project)

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF STEUBEN) ss.:

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

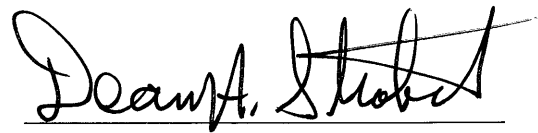
That I have compared the annexed extract of minutes of the meeting of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), including the resolution contained therein, held on August 24, 2023, with the original thereof on file in the office of the Agency, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the Agency and of such resolution set forth therein and of the whole of said original insofar as the same related to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that all members of said Agency had due notice of said meeting, that the meeting was in all respects duly held and that, pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meetings Law), said meeting was open to the general public, and that public notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Article 7.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that there was a quorum of the members of the Agency present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that as of the date hereof, the attached resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or modified.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Agency this 24th day of August, 2023.


Secretary