

**Steuben County IDA
Governance Committee Meeting
August 24, 2023
Minutes**

Present: Chris Sharkey, Chair
Mike Davidson, Member
Mark Alger, Ex-Officio
James Johnson, Executive Director
Jill Staats, IDA Staff

Absent: Michelle Caulfield, Member

Sharkey called the meeting to order at 11:44 am. Upon a motion by Davidson and a second by Sharkey, the minutes from the June 22, 2023 meeting were approved.

Staats presented an application for assistance from Empire Long Distance Corporation and Empire Telephone Corporation. The sister companies are part of a telecommunications entity (Empire) providing telephone, internet, alarm, and digital TV services to residential and commercial customers across the Southern Tier and Northern Pennsylvania. Empire Telephone currently owns a warehouse and storage area in Prattsburgh from which service employees are dispatched with the trucks, equipment, and supplies needed for the day. Empire needs additional warehouse space and will be buying about five acres of adjoining land on which it plans to build a 24,000 sq. ft. facility under Empire Long Distance. The entity will also be purchasing about \$2.5 million in new service vehicles for a total investment of \$4.390 million. The company will retain 46 positions and create two new jobs at the site. The benefit to cost ratio is 5:1 considering Empire requested property and sales tax assistance.

Johnson noted that IDAs can provide sales tax assistance for rolling stock when the vehicles report to and from the project location.

Davidson made a motion to recommend to the Board that it accept the application as presented. Sharkey seconded and the motion passed.

Sharkey adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.