

Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency

Administration provided by Ithaca Area Economic Development

**Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2026 10:00 AM
IAED Offices
119 East Seneca Street, Suite 200
Ithaca NY 14850**

Present: Deborah Dawson (chair), Shawna Black, Jeff Gorsky, Ducson Nguyen (TCIDA/TCDC Board), Kellea Bauda, Ina Arthur, Kurt Anderson (IAED), Russ Gaenzle (remote), Harris Beach Murtha

Deborah Dawson called the meeting to order at 10:023 am.

Privilege of the Floor – None.

Mission Statement Review

Deborah Dawson proposed the following change to the TCIDA Mission Statement to place emphasis on the growth of a diverse and vibrant local economy.

“The Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency delivers incentives to business and industry that are designed to grow a diverse and vibrant local economy and a robust tax base. Our incentives support job creation, business and industrial development, and community revitalization. We strive to develop the local economy in an organized, sustainable, and environmentally beneficial manner.”

Jeff Gorsky made a motion to approve the edits to the TCIDA Mission Statement as presented. Ducson Nguyen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Uniform Tax Exemption Policy Review

Shawna Black made a motion to approve the TCIDA Uniform Tax Exemption Policy edits proposed by counsel. Jeff Gorsky seconded the motion.

Edits:

Section A.3 under types of eligible projects clarifies that as of 2008 the TCIDA no longer issues tax-exempt bonds for civic facilities.

Section B under the fee for off-site community solar projects. The industry standard is currently 1%.

Shawna Black made a motion to increase the fee for off-site community solar projects from ½ % to 1%. Jeff Gorsky seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

Fees for other types of projects were not changed.

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A vote was called on the motion to approve the policy as edited. The motion was approved 4-0.

Deborah Dawson asked if there was thoughts on restricting hospitality projects. There were none.

Shawna Black asked that the requirement for installing heat pumps (item J) be changed to a recommendation.

Shawna Black made a motion to change the heat pump requirement under item J to a recommendation. Jeff Gorsky seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-1 (Ducson Nguyen nay).

Recapture Language Discussion

Deborah Dawson asked that if there is a successful recapture of incentives, can the TCIDA's costs (attorney etc.) be recovered. Yes. The costs of any litigation become the responsibility of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.