

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER

This Governance Committee Charter was originally adopted by the Board of Directors of the Seneca County Economic Development Corporation, hereafter "the Corporation", a public benefit corporation established under the laws of the State of New York, on this 27th day of April, 2009.

Purpose

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2006-19, Section 7, the purpose of the governance committee is to assist the Board by:

- Keeping the Board informed of current best practices in corporate governance relating to the Corporation;
- Advising those responsible for appointing directors to the Board on the skills, qualities and professional or educational experiences necessary to be effective Board members.

Powers of the Governance Committee

The Board of Directors has delegated to the governance committee the power and Corporation necessary to discharge its duties, including the right to:

- Meet with and obtain any information it may require from Corporation staff.
- Obtain advice and assistance from in-house or outside counsel, accounting and other advisors as the committee deems necessary.
- Solicit, at the Corporation's expense, persons having special competencies, including legal, accounting or other consultants as the committee deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities. The governance committee shall have the Corporation to negotiate the terms and conditions of any contractual relationship subject to the Board's adopted procurement guidelines as per Public Authorities Law Section 2879, and to present such contracts to the Board for its approval.
- Review and make recommendations to the Corporation board on all matters pertaining to Corporation governance.

Composition and Selection

The membership of the committee shall be as set forth in accordance with and pursuant to the Governance Committee Charter. The governance committee shall be comprised of two (2) or more independent members as defined by the Public Authorities Accountability Act. The governance committee members shall be appointed by, and will serve at the discretion of the Seneca County Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors. The Board may designate one member of the governance committee as its Chair. The members shall serve until their resignation, retirement, removal by the Board

Governance Committee Charter

or until their successors shall be appointed and qualified. When feasible, the immediate past governance committee Chair will continue serving as a member of the Committee for at least one year to ensure an orderly transition. The governance committee members should be knowledgeable or become knowledgeable in matters pertaining to governance.

Committee Structure and Meetings

The governance committee will meet a minimum of once a year, with the expectation that additional meetings may be required to adequately fulfill all the obligations and duties outlined in the charter. Meeting agendas will be prepared for every meeting and provided to the governance committee members at least three days in advance of the scheduled meeting, along with the appropriate materials needed to make informed decisions. The governance committee shall act only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members at a meeting. Minutes of these meetings are to be recorded.

Reports

The governance committee shall:

- Report its actions and recommendations to the Board at the next regular meeting of the Board.
- Report to the Board, at least annually, regarding any proposed changes to the governance charter or the governance guidelines.

Relationship to the Corporation's Board

The Board of Directors has delegated to the governance committee the responsibility to review, develop, draft, revise or oversee policies and practices for which the governance committee has specific expertise, including, but not limited to:

- Develop the Corporation's governance practices, including, transparency, independence, accountability, fiduciary responsibilities, and management oversight.
- Develop the competencies and personal attributes required of Directors to assist those authorized to appoint members to the Board in identifying qualified individuals.

In addition, the governance committee may:

- Develop and recommend to the Board the number and structure of committees to be created by the Board.
- Develop and provide recommendations to the Board regarding Board member education, including new member orientation and regularly scheduled board member training to be obtained from state-approved trainers.

Governance Committee Charter

- Develop and provide recommendations to the Board on performance evaluations, including coordination and oversight of such evaluations of the Board, its committees and senior management in the Corporation's governance process.

Evaluation of the Corporation's Policies

The governance committee shall:

- Develop and update as necessary the Corporation's code of ethics and written policies regarding conflicts of interest. Such code of ethics and policies shall be at least as stringent as the laws, rules, regulations and policies applicable to state officers and employees.
- Develop and recommend to the Board any required revisions to the Corporation's written policies regarding the protection of whistleblowers from retaliation.
- Develop and recommend to the Board any required revisions to the Corporation's equal opportunity and affirmative action policies.
- Develop and recommend to the Board any required updates on the Corporation's written policies regarding procurement of goods and services, including policies relating to the disclosure of persons who attempt to influence the Corporation's procurement process.
- Develop and recommend to the Board any required updates on the Corporation's written policies regarding the disposition of real and personal property.
- Develop and recommend to the Board any other policies or documents relating to the governance of the Corporation, including rules and procedures for conducting the business of the Corporation's Board, such as the Corporation's by-laws. The governance committee will oversee the implementation and effectiveness of the by-laws and other governance documents and recommend modifications as needed.

Other Responsibilities

The governance committee shall review, assess and make necessary changes to the governance committee charter.

Reviewed and approved yearly