

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

TRAVEL & DISCRETIONARY FUNDS POLICY

Section 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to implement a provision of the Public Authorities Accountability Act requiring the adoption of certain policies and to adhere to the recommended practices of the NYS Authorities Budget Office (the “ABO”) to protect against the use of discretionary funds for purposes that do not advance the City of Hornell Industrial Development Agency’s (the “Agency”) mission and public purposes. Public Authorities Law §2824 requires the Agency to adopt a policy to govern business travel and ABO Recommended Practice entitled, Written Policies Governing the Use of Authority Discretionary Funds, specifically recommends adoption by the Agency of a policy on the proper use of discretionary funds that incorporates the legal principals set forth in NYS Attorney General in opinion #2007-F4.

Section 2. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply to every member of the board (the “Board”) of the City of Hornell Industrial Development Agency (the “Agency”) and all officers and employees thereof.

Section 3. TRAVEL

A. APPROVAL of TRAVEL

All official travel for which a reimbursement will be sought must be approved by the Executive Director prior to such travel. Provided, however, in the instance where the Executive Director will seek reimbursement for official travel, such travel must be pre-authorized by the Chairman or Treasurer of the Agency.

B. PAYMENT of TRAVEL

The Agency will reimburse all reasonable expenses related to meals, travel and lodging that were incurred by any director, officer or employee as a result of the performance of their official duties. All official travel shall be properly authorized, reported and reimbursed. Under no circumstances shall expenses for personal travel be charged to, or temporarily funded by the Agency. It is the traveler’s responsibility to report his or her travel expenses in a responsible and ethical manner, in accordance with this policy.

C. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travelers may use their private vehicle for business purposes if it is less expensive than renting a car, taking a taxi, or using alternative transportation, or if it saves time. The traveler will be reimbursed at a standard mileage reimbursement rate.

Meals will be reimbursed at actual expense or a per diem rate as determined from time-to-time. Lodging will be reimbursed at actual expense.

Reimbursement for miscellaneous expenses shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Mileage rates and per diem allowances will be established and from time-to-time amended by the Treasurer. All expense reimbursement determinations made pursuant to this paragraph C shall be made by the Treasurer. In the instance where such determinations regard the travel of the Treasurer, the Chairman shall make such determinations.

Section 4. DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

A. USE OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

The expenditure of Agency funds must relate to an enumerated power, duty or purpose of the Agency. Therefore, the use of discretionary funds shall be limited to expenditures that benefit the Agency in advancing its mission and public purposes. Discretionary funds shall not be used in a manner that primarily benefits the individual board member, officer or employee.

B. PRIOR APPROVAL

All expenditures of discretionary funds shall be approved by the Executive Director prior to such expenditure and fall within Annual Budget Allocations. Provided, however, in the instance where the Executive Director will seek an expenditure of discretionary funds, such expenditure shall be pre-authorized by the Chairman or Treasurer of the Agency. The Executive Director or the Chairman or the Treasurer, as the case may be, shall review the proposed use of funds and reasonably determine whether such use (i) primarily benefits the Agency as opposed to an individual board member, officer or employee and (ii) advances the mission and public purpose of the Agency. Scrutiny of all expenses will be guided by judgment relating to the relevance of such costs and the benefits which may accrue from such activities.

C. APPROPRIATE EXPENDITURE GUIDANCE

(i) Membership Dues – Membership dues paid for the Agency to belong to a professional peer organization is a permissible use of Agency funds. However, individual membership costs for board members, officers and employees to belong to a professional, social or fraternal organization whereby the membership is of and the primary benefit is to, the individual rather than the Agency, should not be an Agency expenditure.

(ii) Charitable Contributions & Sponsorships – The appropriateness of such sponsorship or charitable contribution will depend on whether it relates to the powers, duty and purposes of the Agency, and whether such expenditure will advance the Agency's core mission and public purposes.

(iii) Food & Beverages – With the exception of food and beverages purchased during business travel as provided herein, expenditures of food and beverages for the personal consumption of board members, officers and employees should not be considered an appropriate use of Agency discretionary funds. Provided, however, expenditures for food and beverages purchased for or during the conduct of Agency business with persons that do business with the Agency may be an appropriate expenditure of Agency discretionary funds, provided that the expense is reasonable in light of the circumstances surrounding the Agency activity and is pre-approved as set forth herein.

(iv) Professional Training, Certification and Licensing – Paying the costs to attend training to maintain certifications or licenses, or to attend professional conferences may be an appropriate expenditure of Agency discretionary funds.

(v) Marketing – expenses incurred in the course of marketing our area to prospects and relations with existing industries and businesses and supporting partners in the furtherance of our mission.

(vi) Celebrations – celebrations for special occasions intended to boost moral of board members, officers and employee and customarily held in an office setting may be an appropriate expenditure of the Agency discretionary funds if said funds are used in a commercially reasonable manor.

(vii) Other – discretionary funds may be used from time to time if they fall within Annual Budget Allocations, upon recommendation by the Board and at the approval of the Executive Director.

D. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

After review and approval of all invoices by Executive Director, they then will be reviewed by the Audit/Finance Committee. Upon approval, checks will be issued and signed by two members of the Agency. For checks of \$1,000.00 or less there will only be one signature required after approval.

Approved and adopted this 27th day of October 2022.

Reviewed and updated March 30, 2023

Reviewed and approved 12/14/23

Reviewed and approved 12/12/24