

**North Country Regional Economic Development Council
High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, NY
Friday, January 23, 2015**

Present: Lt. Gov. Hochul, Tony Collins, Garry Douglas, Cali Brooks, John Ettling, Bill Farber, Joe Giroux, Bridget Hart, Hugh Hill, Billy Jones, Joe Lightfoot, Betty Little, Cheryl Mayforth, Jim McKenna, Carl McLaughlin, Bill Murray, Addie Russell, David Tomberlin, Donna Wadsworth, Dan Wilt, Jim Wright

Also Present: David Hoover for John Donoghue, Craig Brennan for Michael Tabolt, Jim Reagan for Patty Ritchie, Dick Ashlaw for Joe Griffo

Absent: John Donoghue, Sam Dyer, Joseph Griffo, Marie Regan, Patty Ritchie, Mark Tryniski, Lisa Weber, Ken Blankenbush, Jim Calnon, Randy Douglas, Janet Duprey, Kate Fish, Jeff Graham, Paul Grasso, Anne Merrill

Public Session:

Garry Douglas opened the Public Session at 1:00pm.

Garry Douglas introduced Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul.

Garry Douglas provided a synopsis of the closed session. Carl McLaughlin highlighted the importance of community turnout at the March 20th Fort Drum hearing in Watertown.

Special Assistant, Office of the Commissioner of NYS Department of Labor Paul Nelson presented on the Unemployment Strike Force. The task force provides funding to businesses to boost employment and train employees. Other services include tax credit enrollment, job fairs, customized recruitment services, jobs express, health and safety consultations, and labor law compliance.

Public Comments:

Cathy Dove, President of Paul Smith's College: Paul Smith's College is committed to improving the economic conditions of the North Country. The school is one of the largest employers in Franklin County and has a \$75 million economic impact in the region.

An unknown commenter [name not stated] asked about the \$1.5 billion competition and how the competition will work. Garry Douglas noted that this process will work similar way to the last four Regional Economic Development Council competitions.

Joe Dadey, Adk Based Trails and Lodging: Thank you to the Council for your support and funding of our hut-to-hut hiking and trail planning initiative.

Garry Douglas adjourned the meeting at 1:33pm.