

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS KENNY
TESSIER
MERLINO
CHAMPAGNE
GOODSPEED

OTHERS PRESENT:

HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR THOMAS
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK - TOURISM DEPARTMENT
ALYSON MARTIN, *THE POST STAR*
AMANDA ALLEN, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR SIMMES

Please see the sign-in sheet on file with the minutes for additional meeting attendees.

VACANT: TOWN OF THURMAN

Mr. Kenny called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting would be an extension of the previous Committee meeting held on December 2, 2008, Mr. Kenny advised, the majority of which would be a workshop to further discuss which events occupancy tax funding would be allotted to for 2009. He stated that although the public was welcome to remain in attendance throughout the workshop portion of the meeting, they would not be permitted to participate.

Mr. Kenny asked if there were any announcements to be made and as there were none, the Committee began the workshop portion of the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Mr. Goodspeed left the meeting during the workshop session.

When the Committee reconvened at 10:53 a.m., Mr. Kenny advised that a brief discussion regarding the Event Coordinator position proposed by the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce (LGRCC), for which occupancy tax funding had been requested, as well as the Event Coordinator position proposed by the Planning & Community Development Department which would solely promote events along the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor (FWHC).

Mr. Tessier questioned if the grant funding sought for the FWHC Event Coordinator position had been received and Mr. Kenny replied that as per Paul Dusek, County Attorney, it had not. Wayne LaMothe, Deputy Director of Planning & Community Development, apprised that grant funding in the amount of \$35,000 had been promised by the Department of State for the position through the FWHC Project grant. He advised that he had a meeting with representatives of the Department of State on the following day to further discuss the matter and to begin developing a work plan. Mr. Tessier asked when they would be able to access the grant funds and Mr. LaMothe estimated that they would likely have access to the funds in February of 2009 as a contract had to be signed and approved by the Board of Supervisors to complete the grant process.

When questioned on the matter, Mr. LaMothe confirmed that the FWHC Event Coordinator would promote only those events occurring in Towns along the FWHC Project route and through which both the Hudson River and the railroad crossed, specifically the Towns of Stony Creek, Thurman, Warrensburg, Johnsbury and Chestertown. He added that a contract would be developed for the position which would not receive any employee benefits. Mr. Kenny asked if an RFP (request for proposal) would be required to award the contract and Mr. LaMothe replied that

according to the County Attorney's Office, an arrangement could be implemented very similar to that which was in place with the Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Champagne noted that a \$35,000 annual matching grant would be received for the position and Mr. LaMothe confirmed this, advising that the \$35,000 received in grant funding would be used to nurture and boost local events along the FWHC project route, while the \$35,000 Local Share would fund the Event Coordinator contract. He added that annual performance reviews would be made each year to determine if they wished to continue these services. Mr. Kenny stated that if the Committee chose to proceed in implementing the position, the Local Share would come from the General Occupancy Tax Fund. Mr. LaMothe noted that the contract would likely not be awarded until March of 2009 and therefore the salary for the first year would be less than indicated and he estimated that only \$28,000 would be expended for the contract in 2009.

Subsequent to further discussion on the matter, it was determined that there was insufficient support for the FWHC Event Coordinator as a majority vote could not be reached. While Messrs. Champagne, Merlino and Tessier were in favor of the position, Mr. Kenny was not. Mr. Kenny stated that four affirmative votes were required to approve of the position and since that number was not reached, the matter would remain as a pending item until the next Committee meeting when it would be discussed again. He advised that he was not in favor of the position as it would serve only a narrow portion of the County.

Mr. LaMothe said he was unsure as to how he should proceed in his meeting with the Department of State with respect to the grant funding due to the lack of Committee support and Mr. Champagne advised he should relate that although the majority of the Committee members present had been in favor of the position, they had been unable to reach a majority vote during the meeting. He added that because he was sure that Mr. Goodspeed would vote in favor of the position, Mr. LaMothe should relay the feeling that the issue would be approved during the next Committee meeting when the remaining Committee members were present.

Proceeding to discussion on the LGRCC Event Coordinator position, Mr. Kenny stated that he was in favor of this position as it would assist to bring events to the area and he supported the development of an RFP for the position.

It was the consensus of the Committee that an RFP should be developed for the LGRCC Event Coordination position.

Mr. Kenny read aloud the listing of organizations that would receive occupancy tax funding for 2009, a complete listing of which is attached.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously to approve the listing of occupancy tax funding to be awarded and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19th Board meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. Tessier, Mr. Kenny adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist

APPLICANT	EVENT	FUNDING GRANTED
Adirondack Amigos	Adk. Fall Auto Swap Meet/Fall Market	\$2,000
Adirondack Promotions, LLC	2009 Lake George.com Elvis Festival	8,000
Adirondack Promotions, LLC	King Creole Festival	5,000
Adirondack Theater Festival	2009 Summer Season - Professional Theater	11,000
Albany Rods & Kustoms, Inc.	Adirondack Nationals Car Show	20,000
Americade	2009 Americade	50,000
Americade	Fall Foliage Festival	10,000
Champion Services Group, Inc.	Adirondack Regional Cheer Leading	1,500
Champion Services Group, Inc.	Total Fall Classic Cheerleading	1,500
Cornell Cooperative Extension	2009 Warren County Youth Fair	1,000
Glens Falls (city of)	Holiday Hometown Week long Celebration	2,000
Hyde Collection Trust	Degas & Music Exhibition	38,000
Ki Ho Unlimited	1 st Annual LG Sand Sculpting Competition	7,000
Ki Ho Unlimited	Lake George Splash In	3,000
Lake George Arts Project, Inc.	Lake George Jazz Weekend	3,000
Lake George Blues Blast	Lake George Blues Blast	2,000
Lake George Community Band, Inc.	2009 LG Community Band Festival	2,000
Lake George Community Band, Inc.	2009 Summer & Holiday Concert Series	2,000
Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce	Lake George Area Restaurant Week	6,000
Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce	Canadian Visitor Promotion Program & Special Event Week	11,000
Lake George Volunteer Fire Department	2009 Hudson valley Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. Convention	20,000
Lake George Winter Carnival	2009 Lake George Winter Carnival	4,000
LARAC	June & November Arts Festivals	3,000
Luke Ventures	North Country Triathlon	3,000
Marcella Sembrich Memorial Assoc., Inc.	2009 Summer Concert Series	3,000
National Physique Committee Northeastern NY	NPC North Atlantic States/UPA Bench Press	0
Northeastern Winter Classic All-Breed Dog Show	Northeast Winter Classic All-Breed Dog Show	2,000
North Warren Chamber of Commerce	10 th Annual Halloween Pug Parade & Party	4,000

NYS Public High School Association	Girls State Volleyball Championship	\$5,000
NYS Public High School Association	NYS High School Basketball Championships	50,000
Spa Studio of Union Square & Ki Ho Unlimited	The Adirondack "Wondrous Woman" Retreat & Expo	5,000
Tri-County Eagles/Post 553	Burdell Bailey Memorial - Cooper's Cave	0
United Church of God	Feast of Tabernacles	0
Upper Hudson Festivals, Inc.	Music by the River Concert Series	0
Upper Hudson River RR, Corp.	Day Out With Thomas	0
US Championship Rodeo Foundation	Adk. Stampede Charity Rodeo	0
Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce	Wsbg. Largest Garage Sale	8,000
Warren County Council of Chambers		1,000