

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

DATE: APRIL 28, 2008

Committee Members Present: Others Present:

Supervisors	Sokol	Representing Planning & Community Development
	Belden	Department:
	Tessier	Patricia A. Tatich, Director
	Champagne	Wayne E. LaMothe, Assistant Director
	Stec	Representing Economic Development Corporation:
	Taylor	Leonard Fosbrook, President

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor	Merlino	Frederick Monroe, Chairman
		Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services
		Patricia C. Nenner, Second Assistant County Attorney
		Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
		Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
		Thomas Randall, <i>The Adirondack Journal</i>
		Debra L. Schreiber, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist

Mr. Sokol called the Planning & Community Development Committee meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Champagne, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2008 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Patricia Tatich, Planning & Community Development Director, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Sokol began the meeting by apprising the Committee that the Front Street Revitalization Project (Gore Mountain) had recently received approval.

Referring to the first Pending Item, Mr. Champagne stated that he had met with members of the Warren/Hamilton Community Action Agency, as well as the Warren County Planning & Community Development Department, and he discovered that the regulations varied amongst each entity which caused some issues to arise during a project in Pottersville. As a result of their meeting, he said the two agencies agreed to put aside their differences and enter into a mutual

agreement. Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development, indicated that he was currently reviewing the terms and conditions of their proposed agreement.

Continuing on with the second Pending Item, Ms. Tatich asked the Committee to clarify their position on improving broadband services since the County was unsuccessful in their efforts to secure funding assistance through a Smart Growth grant. She said she queried at the previous meeting whether it was the intention of the Committee to advance a project for broadband services to the full Board of Supervisors. Ms. Tatich indicated that she had some discussions with Howard Lowe from the Technical Assistance Center to better familiarize herself with the progress of their project and she anticipated having more information available at the next Committee meeting.

With respect to the third Pending Item, Ms. Tatich stated she was awaiting a response from Alan Hipps, Director of the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County, relative to how the County Planning & Community Development Department would provide assistance to the Adirondack Community Housing Trust.

Turning to the Resolutions portion of the agenda, Mr. LaMothe requested permission to enter into an agreement with Fountains Spatial, Inc., for the purpose of providing maintenance services for the County Geographic Information System (GIS) program, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, commencing May 16, 2008 and terminating December 31, 2008. He stated Fountains Spatial was a New York State (NYS) agency that provided technical assistance for GIS software that was utilized by their Department. He noted the funds had been appropriated in their 2008 Department Budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Champagne and carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe requested permission to complete the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process for the Feeder Canal Trail through Community Connections grant that was awarded on behalf of the local communities. Patricia Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney, indicated all other agencies had consented to Warren County becoming the lead agency and the negative declaration would be addressed at the May 16, 2008 Board Meeting. In response

to an inquiry by Mr. Belden, Mr. LaMothe replied the communities provided the local match for the \$140,000 grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously approving the request as submitted; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 16, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Pursuant to the guidelines of the Small Cities Program, Mr. LaMothe stated their Department prepared an application in the amount of \$400,000 on behalf of the Town of Lake Luzerne to renovate the old bowling alley into a senior citizens center/emergency shelter. He said no local match was required and he expected a response by July 2008. Ms. Tatich apprised the Committee there had been some restructuring at the State level whereby the New York State (NYS) Division of Housing & Community Renewal (DHCR) and the Office for Small Cities (formerly the Governor's Office for Small Cities) were now sharing operations and had become known as the Office for Community Renewal. While she did not foresee this change having any County impact, she said, all housing programs would be administered by the DHCR and the Small Cities program would be managed through the Office of Community Renewal.

Continuing on with 4(b) of the Planning & Community Development agenda, Ms. Tatich informed the Committee the NYS Division of Housing & Community Renewal asked to sponsor a meeting on May 13, 2008 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Board Room to collect information relating to the State-wide housing issues. According to DHCR, she said, it was their desire to meet with representatives throughout the State to compile a policy document that had not been completed in quite some time.

Regarding Item 4(c), Mr. LaMothe indicated that NYS would host an informational meeting for their next round of funding under the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) program on May 14, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Saratoga Spa State Park. He further apprised that the NYS Coastal Resource Division would hold their informational meetings for the next round of funding under the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. In 2009, he said, the counties would be eligible applicants for funding assistance under this program, which had previously been administered by a local municipality.

At a previous Committee meeting, Ms. Tatich stated they discussed the extent to which their Department was required to provide technical assistance to outside municipal entities. She said Nicholas Caimano, who was working with the Glens

Falls Business Improvement District, forwarded correspondence seeking her input concerning a park grant they were awarded. While she agreed to provide the technical assistance they requested, she said, she would inform him (as she would other entities) that she would seek Committee approval should they require assistance in preparing any applications. Due to the past relationship Mr. Caimano had with Warren County and his involvement with the City of Glens Falls, she said, she felt it was important to articulate the responsibilities of their Department. Mr. Champagne queried whether a written policy should be adopted by the Planning & Community Development Department whereby any entity seeking the assistance in the preparation of applications must receive prior Committee approval. Mr. LaMothe stated their Department provided technical assistance to communities and this not-for-profit entity was not inclusive of the community, which was the reason they presented the matter to the Committee.

That concluded the Planning & Community Development Department portion of the meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Leonard Fosbrook, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President, who distributed copies of the agenda, *a copy of which is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Fosbrook reported that 225 people attended the Annual Luncheon that was held at the Great Escape Lodge and raised approximately \$19,000 in sponsorships. He thanked Assemblywoman Sayward, Senator Little and all the Supervisors for their continued support of their various projects.

Continuing on with Item II of the EDC agenda, Mr. Fosbrook stated they had been unsuccessful in locating an individual to fill the vacancy on the Empire Zone Board; however, he said, there was a resident of Pottersville who was retiring that would be a tremendous asset to the Board. Mr. Fosbrook said he expected to have a recommendation for this vacancy at the next meeting.

Referring to Item III, Mr. Fosbrook briefly updated the Committee on the progress of the Queensbury Industrial Park (QIP), specifically noting the lot had been prepped, the National Guard had commenced foundation construction and all utilities were currently being installed. He noted the adjacent landowner would not grant an easement for National Grid to install a power pole which necessitated a bore being dug under the roadway. Overall, he said, the project appeared to be running on schedule and he expected the road to be dedicated relatively soon.

Mr. Fosbrook stated in their 2007 Budget requests to Congresswoman Gillibrand, their Department received \$147,000 in grant funds for the Glens Falls Civic Center improvements. He said a meeting was being scheduled with the City of Glens Falls and/or the Civic Center Foundation to define the project and administer the funds according to the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) requirements.

In their 2008 Budget requests, Mr. Fosbrook advised that Congresswoman Gillibrand requested \$750,000 for the runway extensions at the Airport and another \$750,000 for the Chestertown Waterline to enhance the infrastructure at the Peckam Materials Industrial Park. While he was unsure whether they would be the recipient of any or all of these funding requests, he said, he appreciated the Congresswoman considering these projects that were important to the EDC.

With respect to the last item on the agenda, Mr. Fosbrook stated there had been a lot of controversy about the investment NYS was making in the Chip Fab infrastructure and the benefit package they had offered to Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD). He explained that CEG and Mohawk Edge sponsored a study performed by Semico Research Corp., (a group of consultants and marketing experts to the Chip Fab industry); however, he said, he had not had the opportunity to review their Executive Summary in detail. He noted there were some incorrect assumptions such as the cost of the initial investment and the number of jobs created by a single Chip Fab plant. Mr. Fosbrook articulated that should a Chip Fab plant be established in NYS, he said they would receive \$650 million in cash investments, as well as Empire Zone benefits and approximately 5,500 jobs would be created.

After reviewing all the costs associated with constructing a Chip Fab organization, Mr. Fosbrook stated that the break even point for this type of investment was within the first year; in five years it was a 466% return; and in ten years it was over 600%. These figures reflected the economic value of this investment to the State of New York and should AMD come to Saratoga County, he said, he expected some markets to be created in Warren County. While many individuals remained optimistic that AMD would locate in Saratoga County, Mr. Fosbrook stated he had been informed there were many other Chip Fab organizations that would accept the incentive put forth by the State of New York.

Mr. Fosbrook said it was his opinion that the report submitted by Semico Research Corp. would have nothing but a positive impact on the surrounding communities throughout New York State. Mr. Champagne asked what kind of support the State of New York offered to the Rome and Utica municipalities. Mr.

Fosbrook replied he was unsure; however, he said, since they were located at or near the Air Force Base, they probably received Federal, as well as State assistance.

A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Schreiber
Sr. Legislative Office Specialist