

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: JUNE 30, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
BELDEN
TESSIER
MERLINO
STEC
TAYLOR

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT:

PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR
WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JAMIE WHITE, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR

LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR CHAMPAGNE

FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF
ADMINISTRATIVE & FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
TRISH NENNINGER, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR STRAINER
SUPERVISOR THOMAS
NICOLE LIVINGSTON, DEPUTY CLERK

Mr. Sokol called the Planning & Community Development Committee meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Belden, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2008 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

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

Ms. Tatich apprised that the first Pending Item pertained to the agreement between the Planning & Community Development Department and the Warren/Hamilton County Community Action Agency. Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development Department, stated that an agreement had been executed and the item could be deleted from the Pending Item list.

Ms. Tatich stated that the second Pending Item pertained to extending an

invitation to Dan Corcoran, of the New York State Office of Technology, to attend a Committee meeting with the purpose of discussing the Broadband Study. She said that she had contacted Mr. Corcoran's Office but had not received a reply yet. She advised that the last item on the agenda was to discuss the proposed Telecommunications Study. She expounded that Rob Metthe, Director of Information Technology (IT) Department, had been in communication with one of the companies that was on the list for State preferred consultants; however, she added, she reviewed the State contract and was unsure if it would be appropriate to select a company from the State list for the type of work that would be required. She indicated that a Request for Proposal (RPF) may be necessary and added that she wanted to review the State contract with Julie Pacyna, Purchasing Agent, to determine the needs of the study.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Tatich advised that the third Pending Item pertained to a discussion with the Adirondack Community Housing Trust regarding how the Department could be of assistance to them. She added that she had not received a reply from the Adirondack Community Housing Trust yet. She stated that they were in the process of hiring an Executive Director and added that she felt that they were delaying the discussion until they had an Executive Director in place.

Ms. Tatich said that the fourth Pending Item pertained to Mr. LaMothe developing a plan in conjunction with the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce to hire an Event Coordinator, whose salary would be paid using the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor grant funds. Mr. LaMothe stated that he had begun discussions with Luisa Sherman, of the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce, and he noted, more discussions would be necessary prior to submitting a request to the Committee. He advised that additional funding had been received to cover the cost of the Event Coordinator's salary.

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Tatich apprised that the first item pertained to a report on funding which had been received from the New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). She added that they had applied for funding for the County, as well as assisting the Town of Warrensburg with their application. Mr. LaMothe noted that a letter to Supervisor Goodspeed, announcing an award of \$505,000 had been included in the agenda packet. He added that the original request had been for \$759,000. He advised that in the past the County had not been eligible to apply directly for LWRP funding and had always used the Town of Johnsburg as the conduit to receive funding. He apprised that they would request to set up a capital fund for the project, once the contract with the State

was executed. He noted that the project would involve site work at the railroad station in the Town of Hadley. He advised that the Towns of Hadley and Lake Luzerne had both committed the local matching funds or force account labor for the sidewalk and street improvements from the railroad station down into Lake Luzerne. He stated that \$192,000 of the funding was for structural materials for improvements to that Kellogg Property in the Town of North Creek, to be matched by County labor forces. He noted that some of the funding was earmarked to help fund three years of salary for the Event Coordinator that had been mentioned previously.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board and Trish Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney, entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Mr. LaMothe stated that funding had been awarded to study the prospect of acquiring the railroad track to Barton Mines and potentially to the Town of Tahawus. He said that at a Special Planning & Community Development Committee meeting held prior to the last Board meeting they had decided which of the items that had not been funded should be resubmitted. He added that the application was due on June 30, 2008 and had been delivered to the State on June 26, 2008, with a request for an additional \$250,000 in funding. Mr. Belden noted that authorization had been required prior to any improvements made to the Kellogg Property and he inquired if this had hindered the progress. Mr. LaMothe said that the County had a contract with Elan Planning and Design in Saratoga, New York to work with the community to gain their input as to the desired use(s) of the property. He added that when Elan Planning and Design completed the study, they would try to incorporate those items into the deed for the property which was currently owned by Open Space Institute.

Mr. Belden apprised that the discussion kept returning to constructing railroad stations at both sites and he added that it was his understanding that the Board had decided to construct covered platforms at the stations in the Towns of Thurman and Hadley. He questioned the amount of local matching funds that were required for the \$505,000 that had been received in funding and Mr. LaMothe responded that the match was \$505,000 and added that the source of funding was already in place. He added that the Towns of Hadley and Lake Luzerne would provide the local matching funds, by way of labor for the portion of the project at the station in the Town of Hadley. Mr. Geraghty requested a breakdown of how each of the communities would provide the local matching funds. Mr. LaMothe stated that the donation of the property by Open Space Institute counted as part of the local matching funds and added the property was assessed at \$205,000. He said that additional local matching funds would come

from labor supplied by the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Department. Mr. Belden asked if there was a deadline for the completion of the project and Mr. LaMothe responded that the deadline was two years from the date that the contract was signed and added that he did not expect the contract to be executed until the Fall of 2008.

Chairman Monroe questioned how the LWRP grant funding related to other grant funding which had been received for the Town of Hadley and the \$429,000 that the County was contributing. Mr. LaMothe responded that he had a discussion with Rick Loewenstein, of Clough, Harbour & Associates, pertaining to a possible gap in the amount of local matching funds and he added, the issue would be discussed further at the Public Works Committee meeting on July 1, 2008. He added that the State funding that had been received would count towards the local matching funds because the LWRP grant funding was Federal. Chairman Monroe advised that he had spoken with Paul Butler, Director of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Department, who had indicated that the original project had been \$2.5 million, of which \$2 million was grant funding and \$500,000 was local matching funds, of which \$71,000 had already been expended.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. LaMothe noted that the Town of Warrensburg had also been awarded grant funding from the LWRP in the amount of \$60,000.

Mr. LaMothe stated that the second item on the agenda pertained to the GIS (Geographic Information System) analysis issues that concerned the Real Property System (RPS) forms and the information that had been provided by the local assessors. He requested that the Town Supervisors encourage their assessors to standardize the nomenclature in the RPS. He referred to the document entitled 'Owner Name Variation in the Municipal RPSv4' which was included in the agenda packet and noted that there were a number of variations in the way that County and State properties were listed. He said that in trying to work with the Town of Johnsburg and the County on New York State Tax Assessment, it had been difficult to locate all of the municipally-owned property. He apprised that the issue could be remedied by doing a global change in the database; however, he added, it would be the responsibility of the Town assessors to maintain the consistency.

Mr. LaMothe advised that the third item on the agenda pertained to the Canal Corridor Improvement Program and added that the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) determination was complete and had been forwarded to the State. He said that the major component that was at risk was Haviland's Cove and

the bikeway. He explained that they were working with Joe Sullivan, from the City of Glens Falls, for the drawings that were required by the State prior to releasing the funds. He indicated that he was unsure if the reconstruction would begin this fall or next spring.

Chairman Monroe reported that the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project was proceeding as scheduled. He added that 60 to 70 of the 96 surveys that were sent out had been returned. He said that the LA Group had developed a map of the entire Adirondack Park, which was 140,000 parcels and added that the map was color coded to differentiate between commercial, industrial, municipal and residential properties. He said that he felt the map would be a great tool in the future.

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

Privilege of the floor was extended to Leonard Fosbrook, President of the Economic Development Corporation, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Fosbrook apprised that the first item on the agenda pertained to a strategic plan for 2008 through 2014, which had been developed by staff and Board members. He explained that the objectives were, as follows:

- ▶ Objective I: Develop sustainable operational excellence;
- ▶ Objective II: Lead and evaluate product and project development;
- ▶ Objective III: Define and develop markets;
- ▶ Objective IV: Maximize our potential as an EDC;
- ▶ Objective V: Advocate workforce development; and
- ▶ Objective VI: Drive economic development dialog.

Mr. Fosbrook stated that the second item on the agenda pertained to a panel discussion he had attended by the AATV (Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages) in Lake Placid, New York. He added that the objective had been to create a dialog pertaining to developing a sustainable economy for the communities inside the blue line. He explained that most of the programs that the State had developed to help communities, did not apply to the size of the communities which were inside the Adirondack Park. He said they were looking to promote some economies to scale. He explained that when the Adirondack Park was established through legislation, they had determined that it was a special area and he voiced his opinion that from an economic development standpoint the Adirondack Park was in need of special programs. He advised that the AATV Panel would hold

another meeting in Long Lake, New York on July 16, 2008, which he would also attend. He said that they would try to evolve some consensus to approach the State to ensure that they took the needs of this area seriously.

Mr. Belden said that he had attended the AATV Panel meeting and noted that the panel was an invaluable tool. Chairman Monroe stated that he had attended, as well, and added that a representative from Empire State Development and Steve Hunt, the Governor's representative for the North Country, were also in attendance. He apprised that the meeting on July 16, 2008 had the potential to be very influential, as the various groups would realize that they would not have the benefit of all the supporting services that the Towns provide, if they did not start paying attention to this area. Mr. Fosbrook reported that he had spoken with Mr. Hunt that morning to arrange a meeting for July 1, 2008, as Mr. Hunt would be in the area.

Mr. Fosbrook stated that the EDC would be holding a luncheon on September 5, 2008, and the guest speaker would be Dr. John E. Kelly III, Senior Vice President and Director of Research for IBM (International Business Machines). He added that the topic of discussion would be the benefits of nano technology, as well as the background and history of the developments of Albany nano. He noted that the luncheon would be held at the Great Escape Lodge.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Merlino, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

As type by Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist