

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: MARCH 29, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR	REPRESENTING WARREN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CONOVER	CORPORATION:
PITKIN	LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT
SOKOL	JOHN WHEATLEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
MCDEVITT	REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
	PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:	JAMIE WHITE, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
SUPERVISORS MERLINO	FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
MCCOY	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
	KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
	SUPERVISORS LOEB
	STEC
	STRAINER
	DON LEHMAN, <i>THE POST STAR</i>
	CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Planning & Community Development Committee to order at 10:47 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Pitkin and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

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

Mr. Fosbrook said Global Foundries had hosted a day long seminar the previous week for approximately 40 businesses that were potential suppliers of the chip factory. He stated the Center for Economic Growth (CEG) and the New York State Economic Development Council (NYSEDC) held a cocktail event at the Hyatt at Exit 12 of the Northway which he noted he had attended. He apprised the EDC had developed a flash drive presentation which was distributed at the event; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

John Wheatley, Economic Development Specialist, reviewed the flash drive presentation in detail for the Committee members. He explained the presentation was of the slide show variety with bullet points. He said they felt it was important to highlight the proximity of Queensbury Business Park to Global Foundries and that there were sites with immediate availability. Mr. Fosbrook stated the presentation showed Queensbury Business Park and Tech Meadows with bullet points of their individual features. Mr. Wheatley noted the presentation was approximately three minutes long and would lead the viewer to the EDC website at the conclusion. Mr. Fosbrook said the presentation was developed for the specific event but could be customized for individual events or shows.

Mr. Fosbrook advised Warren County's competitive edge was that the Queensbury Business Park was fully infrastructured and approved. He added the EDC had applied for a National Grid grant that would allow them to take one of the sites at the Park through the approval process and obtain a building permit so it would be available immediately for a potential business. He noted a chip design or testing company was likely to be one type of company willing to take up occupancy at Queensbury Business Park due to its proximity to Global Foundries.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Fosbrook apprised the EDC Annual Luncheon would be held on April 22, 2010 at the Great Escape Lodge and the keynote speaker would be Rick Whitney, President and Chief Executive Officer of M+W U.S., Inc., the company that was the designer and general contractor for the Global Foundries chip fab in Malta, New York. He added M+W U.S., Inc. had relocated their corporate headquarters to the Capital Region from Texas. He invited the Committee members to attend the Luncheon.

Mr. Wheatley advised he had participated in the Annual Lobby Day sponsored by the NYSEDC. He explained the NYSEDC was comprised of EDC's, LDC's (Local Development Corporations) and IDA's (Industrial Development Agencies) throughout the State. He said one of the main functions of the NYSEDC was to follow changes to existing legislation or new legislation that pertained to the industry. He apprised the Annual Lobby Day involved participants from across the State who divided into teams and met with their local Legislators. His group, he added, was comprised of six Legislators who represented the eastern part of New York State from Plattsburgh to Yonkers. He said they presented three issues: the first was advocating for extension of the non-profit IDA law; the second pertained to the gross receipts tax of the IDA law; and the third was requesting a five year extension of the Empire Zone Program. He explained the non-profit IDA law allowed IDA's to fund municipal and non-profit entities and a lot of projects had been postponed because the law had not been renewed since 2008. Mr. Fosbrook mentioned that every other State had passed the non-profit IDA law with no expiration date except New York State which passed the law on a yearly basis. He explained the reason was so that the Unions could decide on changes to the law on a yearly basis and currently the Unions wanted construction projects to be subject to prevailing wage.

Mr. Fosbrook updated the Committee on the status of the Tourism Strategy study to be completed by ConsultEcon, Inc. He reminded the Committee they had approved of the study and had referred the issue to the Tourism Committee for approval. He added the Tourism Committee had authorized a resolution in support of the EDC entering into an agreement with ConsultEcon, Inc. to complete a Tourism Strategy study for Warren County with an emphasis on the possible uses of the Gaslight Village property. Mr. Taylor asked how long it would take to complete the study and Mr. Fosbrook replied 12 to 16 weeks. Patricia Tatich, Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, questioned the scope of the study and Mr. Fosbrook responded there were four steps to the completion of the study that would result in a long-term plan for tourism in Warren County. Mr. Fosbrook added in the Project Initiation step they would hold a meeting with all the stake holders to determine the scope of the study. He noted the second step was a Baseline Study which would involve evaluating all of the tourism assets of Warren County and how best to promote them. The next step, he continued, would include case studies to determine if there were gaps in what was completed to promote tourism. He advised the end result of the study would be a list of options and the best use of

the Gaslight Village property.

This concluded the EDC portion of the Committee meeting.

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

Proceeding with the pending items, Ms. Tatich noted there was a vacancy on the Warren County Planning Board from the Town of Queensbury and she was awaiting a suggested person from Mr. Stec. Mr. Taylor asked if the Town of Queensbury would be able to find a person to fill the vacancy and Mr. Stec stated he would provide Ms. Tatich with an appropriate suggestion.

Referring to the Planning Efficiency Grant with the City of Glens Falls, Ms. Tatich said the application had been submitted and was in review. She requested the item be removed from the pending items list.

Pertaining to the referral from the Health Services Committee regarding grant administration, Ms. Tatich stated she had discussed the issue with Patricia Auer, Director of Health Services, and they had determined the Planning & Community Development Department had neither the personnel nor the technical expertise and familiarity with the Health Services Programs to be of assistance. Ms. Tatich noted that Ms. Auer had reported the same findings at the March 26, 2010 Health Services Committee meeting and she requested the item be removed from the pending items list.

The last pending item, Ms. Tatich said pertained to a request to the County Attorney's Office to research Municipal Law Section 239 to determine if it was possible to eliminate area and use variance referrals which were handled by the Warren County Planning Board. She advised the Warren County Planning Board currently had agreements with the individual Towns and wanted to reduce those agreements to eliminate area and use variances. Mr. Taylor noted he had attended Warren County Planning Board meetings and felt there were a lot of items on the agenda. He added the area and use variances had no impact to the County but were time consuming for the Planning Board. Mr. McDevitt asked what criteria would determine which projects were reviewed by the Planning Board and Ms. Tatich responded site plan reviews would be appropriate for review by the Planning Board because they tended to be for larger projects but the Planning Board currently reviewed a lot of smaller projects which had no impact to the County but required the same amount of attention and paperwork.

Patricia Nenninger, Second Assistant County Attorney, explained she had discussed the issue with the County Attorney and they had understood it to be an issue that was taken care of last year. She advised Municipal Law Section 239 gave authority to the Warren County Planning Board and there were ways to narrow that authority. She said they could enact a Local Law which would change the authority of the Warren County Planning Board or they could expand the Inter-Municipal agreements as to what items would be referrals. She said they would complete further research and return to the Committee next month.

Ms. Tatich requested to amend Resolution No. 125 of 2008 to clarify the language to include

the authority of the Chairman of the Board to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town of Lake Luzerne in relation to the Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program for the Senior Center and ratifying the actions of the Chairman in executing the IMA relating to the grant award.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 16, 2010 Board meeting.*

Ms. Tatich requested to establish Capital Project No. H312.9550 280 First Wilderness 2008 Building the Future, in the amount of \$268,270, to administer the grant award under the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). Mr. McDevitt asked if a local match was required and Ms. Tatich replied affirmatively noting municipal workforce would be used to fulfill the match requirement.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Pitkin and carried unanimously to establish Capital Project No. H312.9550 280 First Wilderness 2008 Building the Future, as outlined and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Tatich requested to establish Capital Project No. H313.9550 280 First Wilderness 2009 Hamlet Enhancement, in the amount of \$419,056, to administer the grant award under the LWRP.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Pitkin and carried unanimously to establish Capital Project No. H313.9550 280 First Wilderness 2009 Hamlet Enhancement, as outlined and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Tatich requested to establish Capital Project No. H314.9550 280 First Wilderness Scenic Byway, in the amount of \$59,026, to administer the grant award under the Scenic Byway Program. She noted this was funding received from the Adirondack North Country Association to reconfigure the Dude Ranch Trail.

Motion was made by Mr. Pitkin, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to establish Capital Project No. H314.9550 280 First Wilderness Scenic Byway, as outlined and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Tatich apprised the County had been awarded \$120,000 in grant funding from the Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) which had been intended for use on three units. Due to delays in the awarding of the funds, she continued, two of the units had applied for and received funding from Rural Development. She said they believed they would still be able to use the funds but there were no administrative funds available. She added they had considered having the work absorbed by the Housing Coordinator but decided it would take away from revenue producing activities. She stated she had spoken with the County Attorney's Office to review the requirements of the AHC grant and determined that the Department did not have the necessary staff to complete the work. She recommended the grant funding be returned to

the AHC due to the lack of available staff to complete the duties. She said she wanted the Committee's direction and advised the AHC projects took a lot of work and there were no administrative funds for them.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to table the issue for further discussion at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Tatich updated the Committee on the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Grant in the amount of \$45,000. She said they were in the process of distributing the funds to the communities to complete small projects. She noted there were agreements in place and an amendment that was being reviewed by the County Attorney's Office. She added the grant would end on December 31, 2010 and the participating communities would each receive \$3,200. She noted the projects were tourism related efforts such as informational kiosks or videos.

Ms. Tatich stated that 2010 Census participation rates were included in the agenda packet. She advised 2010.census.gov was a website that provided daily participation rates by community. She reported the current participation rates as follows: the Town of Queensbury at 42%; the Town of Warrensburg at 41%; the Town of Thurman at 37%; the Town of Chester at 31%; the City of Glens Falls at 30%; and the remaining towns in the 20% range. She reported there had been several questions regarding Question Nos. 6 and 7 on the form which pertained to ethnicity. She added questions pertaining to the the form should be directed to George Nemis at the Census Bureau Office in the Town of Queensbury. Mr. Geraghty mentioned that the Post Office would not deliver surveys to those with Post Office Boxes for an address.

Ms. Tatich stated they had received 100 survey results from people who used the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Spatial Data Viewer on the Warren County website, the results of which were included in the agenda packet. She noted they would continue to take surveys and provide the information to the Committee.

Ms. Tatich informed the Committee that CBN Connect had submitted a six-county application for Stimulus Funding for the Broadband Initiative on March 26, 2010. She said Letters of Support had been included from Legislators, hospitals, health centers and emergency services personnel. She advised the Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation had requested to be included in the scope of the project. Chairman Monroe stated Senator Little had sent a Letter of Support for the WestTel application for Stimulus Funding and he noted he was unclear of the difference between CBN Connect's plan and WestTel's plan. He advised they should request WestTel to make a presentation to the County to determine their options. He said he did not think the two plans were in competition other than the fact that they were competing for the same funding. He advised that Senator Little requested Warren County consider supporting the WestTel application.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Tatich stated she had attended the New York Preservation League Workshop in the City of Glens Falls on March 19, 2010 and the Adirondack Park Agency Local Government Day in Lake Placid, New York on March 24, 2010. She advised the Department had begun the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Program projects in the Towns of Chester and Stony Creek.

Ms. Tatich said the Department was preparing an application to the Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program for the Sprinkler System Project at Westmount Health Facility in the amount of \$495,026. She added the Project would require two Public Hearings to be held on April 8 and 15, 2010. She advised the grant required a Needs Analysis to show what was to be completed. She added they would look at the whole area as a Planning activity including the location of the former Department of Social Services Building.

There being no further business to come before the Planning & Community Development Committee, on motion by Mr. Pitkin and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist