

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: JULY 26, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR	REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
CONOVER	LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT
PITKIN	JOHN WHEATLEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
SOKOL	FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
McCOY	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
McDEVITT	SUPERVISORS STRAINER
	THOMAS
COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:	BLAKE JONES, <i>THE POST STAR</i>
SUPERVISOR MERLINO	CHARLENE DiRESTA, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Planning & Community Development Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, 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 Leonard Fosbrook, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Fosbrook announced that John Wheatley, Economic Development Specialist, had recently returned from a week long trip to the west coast. He explained the EDC had been collaborating with the SEDC (Saratoga Economic Development Corporation) on a monthly basis to share knowledge relative to the GlobalFoundries initiative and to discuss what types of companies would likely locate to the area once the chip fab was operational. He apprised that since there were suitable locations in Warren County for the types of businesses that would be interested in being in close proximity to GlobalFoundries, he felt it was a good idea for representatives from both Warren and Saratoga County to attend the Semicon West Conference in San Francisco, California. He advised they went to California prior to the Conference in order to spend a few days in Silicon Valley and to interview a consultant from Glimmerglass, LTD.

Mr. Wheatley described the details of his trip to California; an outline of the details is included in the agenda packet. He stated he had spent the first two days in Silicon Valley in San Jose, California and the remainder of the trip at the Semicon West Conference.

Mr. Wheatley explained that Semicon West was the largest microelectronics conference and trade show and it had been held for the last 41 years. He added the Conference was hosted by an organization called Semi and it attracted 20,000 attendees, most of whom were senior level executives in the microelectronics industry. He apprised the Conference was held for the following industries: semiconductor; solar/photovoltaic; alternative energy; LED (light emitting diode); and MEMS (micro electrode mechanical systems). He added 1,000 companies exhibited at Semicon West, from 40 different countries. Mr. Wheatley said the New York Loves Nanotech display and booth, which had been developed by the CEG (Center for Economic Growth), was

present at the Conference and that the CEG had participated in the Conference for the last ten years. He apprised this was the second year a representative from the EDC had attended the Semicon West Conference.

Mr. Wheatley reported that with the assistance of Glimmerglass, LTD the EDC had been able to schedule private meetings with supply chain companies while in Silicon Valley. He added they had also met with a high tech solar industry company, a bio fuels company and two separate industry groups. He explained the attributes which made Silicon Valley unique were the entrepreneurs, the academic network driven by Stanford University, and the venture capital that were present, as well as a network of experienced mentors. He said Silicon Valley had been under development since the 1940's and although Warren County would be unable to duplicate the site, there were elements which could be copied. Mr. Wheatley announced the meetings had been insightful and noted they had met with 6 supply chain companies to whom he had outlined the assets of Warren County.

Mr. Wheatley stated one of the concepts had been for Warren County to not limit themselves in the scope of the companies pursued to just that of semiconductors, as the LED and MEMS industries were worth pursuing, as well. He explained MEMS were used in the automotive industry in the sensors for air bags and one third of the construction of smart phones consisted of MEMS mini circuits.

Mr. Wheatley apprised that the CEG had re-tooled their marketing campaign to be more scaled towards the Capital Region, as opposed to statewide. He added their new campaign highlighted the location as being in close proximity to desirable locations and amenities.

Mr. Fosbrook apprised there was great value in partnering with SEDC due to their relationship with GlobalFoundries and the M&W Group. He commented that Mr. Wheatley had used the trip to the west coast as an intelligence gathering trip. Mr. Wheatley stated Glimmerglass, LTD would itemize the assets in the region prior to submitting a proposal to the EDC and SEDC. Mr. Fosbrook advised the EDC would establish a file with the contact information gathered by Mr. Wheatley and would send occasional information and emails to determine the companies' interest in the region. He mentioned that companies who showed interest in locating to the region would look for buildings they could immediately occupy. Mr. Wheatley pointed out that Warren County had an advantage in the fact that they had two shovel ready parks in existence.

Discussion ensued.

Concerning the Centurion Cycling Event, Mr. Fosbrook reported work was continuing on the arrangements to host the event in Warren County. He advised it would be necessary to consult the Sheriff's Office and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) agencies to determine their needs if the event was to happen in Warren County. He added the developer for the event would return later this week to further work on details.

Mr. Fosbrook stated the completion of the tourism study being prepared by ConsultEcon, Inc. had been postponed and was anticipated to be submitted in mid to late August. He said he had ongoing conversations with representatives from ConsultEcon, Inc., who would return for further interviews the first week in August. He pointed out ConsultEcon, Inc. had requested a variety of information which had been compiled by Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Fosbrook reported Dennis Mullen, of the (ESD) Empire State Development, had recently been in the area to meet with the Editorial Board concerning the Excelsior Program. He noted the Excelsior Program was the replacement for the Empire Zone Program. He stated the abuses reported throughout the State of the Empire Zone Program did not pertain to Warren County. He added Warren County did not certify any big box retailers, legal firms, financial firms, entertainment centers or bars.

Mr. Fosbrook announced the EDC Fall Luncheon would be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at Highland Park in Queensbury, New York and the guest speaker would be Dr. Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY). He said New York was reshaping the State University program and the strategic plan involved more economic development. Mr. Taylor said Dr. Zimpher had spoken at the recent NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) Conference and her speech had been dynamic.

Mr. McCoy asked if the Empire Zone Program had been completely dismantled and Mr. Fosbrook replied affirmatively noting the termination date had been July 1, 2010. Mr. Fosbrook stated companies which had been certified under the Empire Zone Program and had time remaining on their benefits would continue to receive those benefits.

Chairman Monroe advised he had attended a meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 in Tupper Lake, New York at which Dennis Mullen, of the ESD had spoken. He commented that the meeting had been disappointing as it had been clear that the ESD had not listened to the concerns of Legislators from the Adirondacks that the current programs did not fit their needs. Chairman Monroe reported that Mr. Mullen had begun his speech by acknowledging that the Excelsior Program would not benefit businesses in the Adirondacks, as the requirements were too large. Chairman Monroe reported that Mr. Mullen continued by saying the Excelsior Program would assist in creating more time for the ESD to find other programs to benefit the Adirondack Region. Chairman Monroe stated he had pointed out that the Adirondack Region was treated differently when it came to land acquisition, as they were the only region to have a Forever Wild Clause which meant that when the State purchased forest preserve land it remained in their possession indefinitely. He added when the Adirondacks requested to be treated differently when it pertained to the economy, the requests were ignored.

Chairman Monroe announced there was a plan to submit a nine county application to HUD (Housing and Urban Development) for the Reasonable Sustainability Grant. He said there was some difficulty for Warren and Washington Counties to be included as inclusion required the participation of a metropolitan statistical area, which for Warren County was the City of Glens Falls and for Washington County were Hudson Falls and Fort Edward. He continued by saying that the application was due August 20, 2010 and currently the City of Glens Falls was planning to submit a separate application. Mr. Fosbrook stated he had a meeting later that afternoon with Ed Bartholomew, City of Glens Falls Economic Director, and he would discuss the issue at that time.

There being no further business to come before the Planning & Community Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Pitkin and seconded by Mr. McCoy, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist