

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR	REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
CONOVER	LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT
SOKOL	REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
MCCOY	PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR
MCDEVITT	JAMIE WHITE, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
	PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR MERLINO	KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
VACANT - TOWN OF THURMAN	SUPERVISORS LOEB
	STEC
	THOMAS
	BLAKE JONES, <i>THE POST STAR</i>
	THOM RANDALL, <i>ADIRONDACK JOURNAL</i>
	CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Planning & Community Development Committee to order at 11:31 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. McDevitt 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 reported that the EDC Fall Luncheon had been held on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at Highland Park in Queensbury, New York and the guest speaker had been Dr. Nancy Zimpher, Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY). He said Dr. Zimpher's topic of discussion was SUNY's strategic plan for the future which was aligned with economic development. He stated 200 people registered to attend the Luncheon which had garnered 7 sponsors. He apprised a group of students from local high schools and SUNY Adirondack had been offered attendance at the Luncheon free of charge and added it was a tradition of the EDC to encourage the involvement of students via the Luncheons.

Mr. Fosbrook announced that an Empire Zone Board Meeting had been held recently and advised that the program had been terminated as far as acceptance of new applicants; however, he continued, 47 businesses were currently involved in the program, some of which had several years remaining on their membership and it was necessary to continue to provide them with documentation pertaining to the program on an annual basis. He said the Empire Zone Board had requested the EDC continue to provide the documentation even though there were no longer administrative funds available from the State.

Concerning the Centurion Cycling Event, Mr. Fosbrook reported the lead had been turned over to Mike Consuelo, Special Events Coordinator for the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce. He said the EDC had previously met with the coordinators of the event which was scheduled to be held in Lake George in June 2011.

Mr. Fosbrook explained that the Eastern New York Angel (ENYA) Fund was a venture capital fund which provided the early start-up funds to businesses. He said the ENYA Fund was not currently in existence in this area; however, he added, a group that was developing an ENYA Fund had made a presentation to the EDC Board. He advised the group was looking for participants and the EDC would host a meeting for them on November 10, 2010. He apprised the EDC had developed a list of potential candidates who might be interested in the ENYA Fund.

Pertaining to the Adirondack Folk School, Mr. Fosbrook mentioned a flyer was included in the agenda packet. He explained the School was in the Town of Lake Luzerne at the previous Town Hall. He said the School, which provided classes on traditional folk art, received administrative support from SUNY Adirondack. He apprised the School had 250 students in the first four months of operation and noted they had requested the assistance of the EDC in recruitment of their Board of Directors.

Mr. Fosbrook reported he had received inquiries pertaining to the Request for Proposal for a railroad operator from Railex and Ohio Pacific, both of whom were interested in the potential for freight shipping. He stated he had discussed with them the natural resource of timber available in Warren County and the possibility of the railroad freight operator assisting the County with marketing that resource. Both potential operators, he said, had stated they would assist with the search for a market to sell the timber in order for them to generate profits from the shipping.

Mr. Fosbrook reported that Senator Little and Assemblywoman Sayward had organized a meeting of economic development professionals at the Warren County Municipal Center with the goal of developing a list of needs to assist businesses. He said a list of the suggestions that were developed by the EDC was included in the agenda packet. He advised that Senator Little and Assemblywoman Sayward were attempting to arrange a meeting with Paul Francis, Policy Writer and Staff Member of Andrew Cuomo, Gubernatorial Candidate, with the goal of developing specific programs for businesses in northern New York and to designate tourism as an industry.

Mr. Fosbrook announced he had attended a meeting in South Glens Falls with the Secretary of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) pertaining to funding for a sewer project along Route 9. He added that Congressman Murphy had arranged the meeting and the Director of the Regional Office in Syracuse had also been in attendance. Mr. McDevitt questioned the USDA's involvement in a sewer project and Mr. Fosbrook responded the USDA had funding for grants and loans in rural areas for this type of project.

Mr. Fosbrook reminded the Committee of the National Grid grant which would be used to take a building at Queensbury Business Park through the design and approval process. He said the EDC had applied for and received \$30,000 in funding with a \$10,000 required match. He advised the purpose of taking the building through the design and approval process was to

attract a business that wanted to relocate to the area immediately as a great deal of time would be saved. He apprised the EDC had contracted with an architectural design company and would be designing a 25,000 square foot building. Mr. Loeb questioned the probability that the building design would meet the needs of an inquiring business and Mr. Fosbrook responded that changes could be made to the design and still make the process shorter; however, he added, the EDC was designing a building that was an office warehouse design with a shipping dock which would be suitable for most businesses.

Mr. Fosbrook noted a copy of Gubernatorial Candidate, Andrew Cuomo's plan for economic development in New York State was included in the agenda packet. He advised Mr. Cuomo's plan included the establishment of ten regional economic development councils and EDC Warren County would likely be part of the Capital District Regional Council. He apprised this meant the EDC's projects would be in competition with those of Saratoga, Albany and Rensselaer Counties for funding. Mr. Cuomo's plan, Mr. Fosbrook continued, would disburse 1/3 of the funding among the ten Regional Councils and 2/3 to the entire State. He stated Warren County would need to develop a comprehensive plan in order to be competitive for available funding.

This concluded the EDC portion of the Committee meeting and the Planning & Community Development portion of the meeting commenced at 11:50 a.m.

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

Ms. Tatich stated there was a pending item pertaining to a vacancy on the Warren County Planning Board from the Town of Warrensburg. She reported that Mr. Geraghty had been informed of the vacancy and was in the process of finding a suitable candidate.

Ms. Tatich informed the Committee that funding had been awarded from the AHC (Affordable Housing Corporation) to replace three dilapidated trailers with three conventional houses. She advised she had discussed in past meetings the possibility of returning the funds to the AHC due to an inability to find suitable candidates. She apprised that originally funding for the project was to be derived from the AHC, the HOME Program and the Planning & Community Development Housing account; however, she added, funding from the HOME Program was not awarded. She informed the Committee that the AHC would not approve candidates that would incur any debt from the project. She said she had contacted Alan Hipps, of the Adirondack Community Housing Trust (ACHT), and had determined that he had no candidates who matched the criteria. She continued by saying she had contacted Bob Murray, of Shelter Planning, and it had been determined that the cost to initiate home ownership would be in excess of the funds that were available. She advised she had exhausted all possibilities to utilize the AHC funds with the exception of determining if the funds could be used for the purchase of homeless housing. She added if the funds were to be returned it would be necessary to send a letter to the AHC as soon as possible in order to maintain a good working relationship with the organization.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was any potential for using the AHC funds towards the cost of homeless housing. Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, explained the grant which had

been applied for by the DSS (Department of Social Services) would provide total funding for homeless housing and additional information would not be available for another month. Brief discussion ensued pertaining to the timeline for available funding.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to postpone action for an additional month to research an alternate use for the Affordable Housing Corporation funding and if no other use was determined, the funds would be returned at that time.

Ms. Tatich stated the funds for the contract with Systems Development Group for technical support of the ImageMate Online Software had been removed from the 2010 budget during the budget process. She explained the ImageMate Program was the software that allowed use of the spatial data viewer online and a bill had been received in the amount of \$3,600. She apprised there was the possibility that she could find some of the necessary funds elsewhere in the budget; however, she added, she was unsure if she would be able to find the full amount. Mr. Stec said the remaining funds could be transferred from the contingent fund or the general fund. Mr. Dusek requested that Ms. Tatich determine if funds were available elsewhere in her budget and any remaining balance could be transferred from either the contingent fund or the general fund.

Motion was made by Mr. McCoy, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to request a source of funding for a transfer of funds in an amount not to exceed \$3,600 and to refer same to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Tatich updated the Committee on the Economic Stimulus grant application submitted by CBN Connect for a Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program on behalf of Franklin, Essex, Clinton, Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties. She said \$21 million had been applied for jointly with an \$11 million required match; however, she continued, notification had been received from the Department of Commerce that the application had been denied due to failure to meet the objectives of the Stimulus funding. She said Howard Lowe, of CBN Connect, had informed her that ANCA (Adirondack North Country Association) had received a small funding award to complete an inventory of buildings and structures which would be part of a clearinghouse to enhance wiring services.

Ms. Tatich provided the Committee with an update on the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Program application which was submitted on behalf of a consortium including: Warren County, Washington County, the City of Glens Falls, the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council, the Greater Glens Falls Local Development Corporation, the Village of Fort Edward, the Town of Fort Edward, the Village of Hudson Falls, the Village of South Glens Falls, the Town of Moreau and the Town of Kingsbury. She advised \$310,000 had been requested jointly with \$62,000 in required matching funds; however, she continued, funding had been denied. She apprised the City of Glens Falls had received funding for a Challenge Grant for \$200,000 with a \$40,000 required match.

Ms. Tatich provided an update on the Westmount Sprinkler System Project which was being fully funded with a Small Cities Grant. She advised representatives from the Planning & Community Development Department had met last week with the architect for the project to discuss the details.

Ms. Tatich reported the Planning & Community Development Department was facilitating payment to the 13 communities that received funding under the Quadricentennial Program. She said she had contacted the Supervisors of the Towns who contracted with Lakes to Locks Passage and had notified them of funds they would receive as reimbursement. She apprised the communities involved would receive a reimbursement of \$3,461. She said the Quadricentennial Program would need to be closed by the end of the year.

Mr. McDevitt stated he had a discussion with Ms. Tatich pertaining to bicycle safety in Warren County and a meeting had been held last month to discuss the issue. He advised one of the points that had been discussed was that there was an unused 80 mile trail bed which started in the Town of North Creek and continued into Hamilton County. He added the trail bed had been used during World War II for the transportation of precious metals. Mr. McDevitt requested the Planning & Community Development Department complete some research to determine the possibility of highlighting the 80 miles of trail bed as part of tourism in the County.

There being no further business to come before the Planning & Community Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. Conover, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist