

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: JUNE 27, 2011**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS WOOD  
SOKOL  
TAYLOR

REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:  
PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR  
WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
JAMIE WHITE, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

SUPERVISORS MCCOY  
LOEB

DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY/ADMINISTRATOR  
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISORS BELDEN  
CONOVER  
KENNY  
MERLINO  
STRAINER  
THOMAS  
JOHN WHEATLEY, BOARD PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
VICKI PRATT GERBINO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
FRED AUSTIN, FORT WILLIAM HENRY RESORT  
BLAKE JONES, *THE POST STAR*  
CHARLENE DIRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mrs. Wood called the meeting of the Planning & Community Development Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Sokol 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 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.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Tatich said there continued to be three vacancies on the Warren County Planning Board: two vacancies from the northern communities and one vacancy from the Town of Queensbury. She apprised that it was becoming increasingly difficult for the Planning Board to function as there were only six members and an absence often caused a lack of quorum.

Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development, apprised that the Warren County Planning Board was currently a nine member Board which was three members short. He noted that some of the Board members also served on local boards and occasionally it was necessary for them to abstain from voting on certain matters. He said in the past year there had been three meetings of the Planning Board where no action could be taken due to lack of a quorum. He added there had been several meetings in which only five members were present and they could not take action on some of the items due to a member needing to abstain for various reasons. He said there had been times when a developer would come before the Planning Board along with their attorney and/or architect and no action could be taken on their matter due to a lack of quorum. Mr.

LaMothe stated that the Board members were becoming discouraged and he noted one of the members wanted to resign but was waiting for additional appointments because he did not want to jeopardize the future of the Planning Board. He pointed out that General Municipal Law allowed the County to establish the Planning Board and the number of members was determined by the bylaws, as well as a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. He noted that one current Board member had not attended the last three meetings and two of the members would be running for local office.

Mr. Taylor said in the past the County had considered dis-banning the Planning Board and utilizing the Regional Planning Board. Ms. Tatich responded that was an option although she did not believe the option would be convenient to those with referrals to the Planning Board.

Following further discussion on the matter, motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to reduce the number of members on the Warren County Planning Board from nine to five. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Tatich stated the second pending item pertained to researching properties in the County to determine if there is a possibility of qualifying for grant funding, such as the New York State Brownfield Opportunity Program. She noted that the requirements had changed for this type of funding and now required that applications be submitted for multiple properties or single properties with large acreage. She advised she would continue to research eligible properties but she felt the issue could be removed from the pending items list.

Continuing with the agenda review, Ms. Tatich requested to amend Resolution No. 379 of 2011 to change the name of the company from EnvisionGEO to Finney Design Group. Mr. LaMothe explained the resolution authorized a contract with EnvisionGEO to update the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor brochure; however, he continued, upon receiving the County's insurance requirements, the owner of the company had determined that their insurance rate would increase by \$790 in order to meet the requirements of a \$1,200 contract. He apprised that the owner of EnvisionGEO wanted to amend the contract to her husband's company, Finney Design Group, which already carried the necessary insurance requirements.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 379 of 2011 as outlined above. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting.*

Mr. LaMothe apprised that Aaron Frankenfeld, Director of the Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council (A/GFTC), had advised that the new Federal Transportation Bill would eliminate Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) which served in an area with a population of less than 200,000. He said that 220 of the current 385 MPO's would be eliminated under the new Federal Transportation Bill. He explained the Bill would eliminate the A/GFTC and the area would be absorbed into the Capital District Transportation Council which would mean that Warren County would need to compete for funding with Albany and Saratoga Counties. Mr. LaMothe advised that the National Association of MPO's had drafted a letter of support requesting that the existing MPO's be grandfathered. He requested authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter of support for the A/GFTC to continue funding as a small MPO under the new Federal Transportation Bill. He advised that the version of the Bill presented by the House of Representatives stated that existing MPO's would be grandfathered; however, he added, the Senate version of the Bill did not.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter of support for the A/GFTC to continue funding as a small MPO

under the new Federal Transportation Bill. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the July 15, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Tatich stated the next item for discussion was the impact of the Governor's newly established Economic Development Councils as they pertained to the funding request to the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) for the Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN) Center project in the Town of Queensbury. She said it was the role of the Warren County Planning & Community Development Department to apply for grant funding for projects of this type in the municipalities. She continued by saying the Department had worked with the HTFC on the HHHN Center project and the application had been close to being approved. Ms. Tatich explained the Governor's newly established Economic Development Councils would now have authority to approve or deny applications for funding. She explained there were currently no applications in place for the project and no review criteria had been established. She said the ability to receive funding would be based on the recommendation of the Capital District Economic Development Council.

Ms. Tatich announced that the Department was in the process of mapping out projects in the individual towns resulting from damage caused by the recent rain storms in Warren County. She said they had provided maps to the individual towns in an attempt to gather information pertaining to the damage, as well as photos. She continued by saying the compiled information could be useful in the future.

Ms. Tatich reported that the Planning & Community Development Department and Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Department had been working together on a shared services initiative. She explained that Martin Fitzgerald, Housing Cost Coordinator, had completed the required training and would be working part-time for Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement to assist in completing fire inspections.

There being no further business to come before the Planning & Community Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Wood adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist