

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
MONTESI
WOOD
MASON

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
EDWARD BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
JENNIFER SWITZER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR MCDEVITT
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MONROE

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 1:32 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Montesi 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 Wayne LaMothe, County Planner, 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, Mr. LaMothe stated the pending item concerning inclusion of the Schroon River as part of the Intercoastal Waterway System had been tabled until December for the next Legislative Session.

Mr. LaMothe requested authorization to submit a grant application to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant funding not to exceed \$300,000 for a project in the Town of Thurman. He explained this project was for replacement of the Dippikill Road Culvert which had not received funding in the last round; however, he continued, he had been encouraged by the State to re-submit an application for the current funding round. Mr. Montesi asked if the grant required a local match and Mr. LaMothe replied affirmatively; however, he added, the 25% local match requirement was the responsibility of the Town of Thurman and would be provided through the use of local labor forces.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to authorize submission of a grant application to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 18, 2013 Board Meeting.*

Mr. LaMothe requested to amend the 2013 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$33,374 to reflect the costs associated with reclassifying the Housing Cost Coordinator position from part-time to full time. He explained the reclassification had been approved by Resolution No. 22 of 2013 but he had inadvertently omitted the request to amend the budget at that time.

Following a brief discussion pertaining to the position, motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2013 County Budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

This concluded the Planning & Community Development portion of the Committee meeting and the Economic Development Corporation portion commenced at 1:37 p.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Edward Bartholomew, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who distributed copies of a handout to the Committee members; *a copy of the handout is on file with the minutes*. Mr. Bartholomew explained the handout contained a list from the Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) of priority projects in Warren County which could possibly receive funding from the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) or other agencies and he reviewed the list in detail. He said not all projects submitted were deemed priority projects. He explained the CREDC scored projects on a system of up to 20 points before referring it to the appropriate agency for additional scoring. He stated if a project made the priority project list it was not guaranteed to receive funding. He said the majority of the priority projects were referred to the ESDC for review and the others would be reviewed by various agencies with decisions on funding anticipated for the first week in December. Mr. Bartholomew stated the EDC would work closely with the Planning & Community Development Department in the submission of funding applications for the County and individual Towns.

Mr. Bartholomew announced the Hacker Boat Company would build a new factory at the Queensbury Industrial Park. He said this was a great opportunity to promote the Queensbury Industrial Park and the land around the Airport. He stated the EDC was assembling a new campaign brochure which would be available on their website. He noted the EDC would work with and have members on the Airport Advisory Committee to work on marketing efforts for the Airport. He listed visitations with several Town Supervisors, Mayors and other elected officials to discuss potential projects in their municipalities.

Mr. Bartholomew apprised within the next week the Town Supervisors would receive an email containing a four page document requesting them to list the infrastructure needs of their municipalities. He said the EDC would compile the information to be presented at a two-day Infrastructure Conference in Albany, New York, which would be sponsored by the CREDC and co-sponsored by the EDC, the Adirondack Gateway Council and National Grid. Mr. Bartholomew stated the EDC was on target to meet the PAAA (Public Authorities Accountability Act) requirements by January 1, 2014. He said there would be a transitional period and representatives from Warren County and the Town of Queensbury would be appointed by their communities to the Board at that time.

Mr. Bartholomew announced that at the next Economic Growth & Development Committee Meeting he hoped to be able to display the newly revised EDC website and explain the key features.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that recently General Electric had announced their intention to close their Fort Edward Plant. He said within 24 hours of the announcement, Mr. Bartholomew had organized a meeting of over 50 people to discuss ways to encourage General Electric to maintain their Fort Edward operations. He suggested a resolution of support of the EDC's efforts to encourage General Electric to keep the Fort Edward Plant open.

Mr. Bartholomew stated the closing of the General Electric Plant in Fort Edward would have a \$27 to \$30 million impact to the economy of Warren and Washington Counties. He advised there would be a loss of \$12 million in salaries. He said New York State recognized a formula for economic impact of \$1.41 times the amount of salaries lost, which totaled approximately \$27 million. He informed there would be a public information meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2013. He commented the UE (United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers) - Local 332 Union had met three times recently with representatives of General Electric. Mr. Bartholomew apprised General Electric's intent

was to relocate the capacitor operations to Clearwater, Florida. He informed that Lieutenant Governor Duffy had been designated as the point person in the Governor's Office for this matter. He said the EDC had been communicating with Lieutenant Governor Duffy's Office to determine how they could be helpful in encouraging General Electric to keep the Fort Edward Plant open. He apprised that in order to save these jobs and keep the General Electric Plant open, State and Federal funding and assistance would be necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution supporting the Economic Development Corporation's efforts to encourage General Electric to maintain capacitor operations at their Fort Edward Plant, as closing the Plant would result in an economic impact of \$27 to \$30 million, effecting both Warren and Washington Counties, and would result in a loss of \$12 million in salaries. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the October 18, 2013 Board Meeting.*

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Mrs. Wood, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist