

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
MONROE
MASON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS MONTESI
WOOD

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
PATRICIA TATICH, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
AMANDA METZGER, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 1:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Mason 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.*

Mr. LaMothe presented the following requests:

- 1) Amending Capital Project No. H292.9550 2791, First Wilderness Heritage Corridor- Making the Connection, in the amount of \$199,248.39 to reflect the local match requirements;
- 2) Amending Capital Project No. H312.9550 2791, First Wilderness 2008, in the amount of \$144,426.74 to reflect the local match requirements;
- 3) Amending Capital Project No. H313.9550 2791, First Wilderness 2009, in the amount of \$393,659.51 to reflect the local match requirements; and
- 4) Amending Capital Project No. H334.9550 2791, First Wilderness 2011, in the amount of \$439,285.75 to reflect the local match requirements.

He explained that the requests outlined above were the result of a request by the County Treasurer's Office to include local matches, even if they were volunteer time. in the fund balance. Mr. Monroe queried whether the interfund transfers were from existing capital and Mr. LaMothe replied they were allocated from personnel services and other benefits.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve all four of the above referenced requests and forward same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,000 within the CD71 HOME PBI program, from Budget Code 8686.220, *Administration, Office Equipment*, to Budget Code 8686.437, *Administration, Consulting Fees*, in order to use grant funds to balance departmental salaries. He advised that although grant funds could not be used to purchase equipment, they could be expended for salaries.

Motion was made Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution*

request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. LaMothe presented a request to authorize the County Treasurer's Office to close Capital Project No. H295.9550 2820, County-Wide Broadband Study, and return any remaining monies to the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus. He apprised the County Treasurer had requested the Capital Project be closed, as it had been inactive for a number of years.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

In regards to potential grant projects for 2014, Mr. LaMothe stated the Planning Department was given authorization at the November 15, 2013 Board meeting to submit grant applications to the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation for the RESTORE Program, as well as the Access to Home Program. He noted the applications would not be submitted until the HOME Program funding was announced, as the HOME Program contained the necessary funding for administrative purposes. He said if it was determined the Home Program was unavailable the grant applications would not be submitted.

Mr. LaMothe advised Capital Project No. H228.9550 280, Lake George Loop-Planning, originated from funding that was awarded by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) so the County could administer the Lakes to Locks Scenic Byway Study. He said the not-for-profit group Lakes to Locks completed the study and a \$30,000 reimbursement request was submitted to the NYSDOT, of which \$27,600 was repaid. He stated he was unsure why the full amount of \$30,000 was not reimbursed, as the Planning Department had submitted staff time for the local match portion of the grant. He apprised the County Treasurer's Office had requested the Capital Project be closed; however, he noted, it was necessary to cover the \$2,400 local share. He suggested using monies from the contingent fund to cover the cost, as the funds were not available in the Planning Department budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously close Capital Project No. H228.9550 280, Lake George Loop-Planning, and refer to the Finance Committee to determine the source of funding to cover the remaining local share of \$2,400. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe advised he felt it was pertinent to discuss the different requirements being instituted with regards to awarding a certain percentage of all contracts to minority and women owned businesses (MWBE). He explained that the New York State Department of State Program required 10% of all contracts awarded be granted to businesses owned by women and another 10% to minority owned businesses; however, he said, The Empire State Development Corporation required 8% of contracts be awarded to women owned businesses and 7% to minority owned businesses. He stated that the County used to be excluded from meeting this requirement because less than 5% of the background population was minority; however, he apprised, this was no longer the case. He apprised that the County had the option to spend the time and money to rebid projects until they met the requirements or they could overlook the requirements and award contracts but would have to forgo a percentage of the grant funding award. He stated he felt because New York State was imposing these requirements they should be uniform across all New York State agencies and there should be consistency in how they were regulated.

Mr. LaMothe apprised New York State had introduced a new requirement that a public notice be

published in a minority newspaper. He voiced his concern that in one instance New York State had advised him since there were no minority publications in Warren County they could utilize a publication in New York City and in another instance they indicated it would be acceptable if there was no publication as long as a good faith effort was made to find a minority publication.

Mr. Monroe added he was concerned that the MWBE requirements would create issues with awarding contracts when the lowest responsible bidder was significantly lower than a bid submitted by an MWBE. He pointed out in these circumstances if the lowest bidder was selected a portion of the award would be forfeited or the MWBE could be chosen and the lowest bidder might decide to pursue legal action.

Ed Bartholomew, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), interjected that this could be avoided by working with the contractors to employ subcontractors that met the requirements. He noted there was an increasing number of MWBE in the area that dealt with architecture, landscaping, some areas of transportation and supplies. He stated the requirements could be met; however, it would require due diligence by the Municipality or other entities for that to occur. He pointed out if funding was awarded through New York State the MWBE requirements were uniform; however, when other funding such as Federal funds were involved the regulations changed. He said in some circumstances waivers were granted if due diligence could be demonstrated. He added in cases involving small contracts or supplies it created issues because there may be no suppliers or businesses that met the MWBE criteria. Mr. LaMothe stated this had been the case with the recent bid for enclosing the train stations in Hadley and Thurman, as there were no bids received from MWBE vendors.

Patricia Tatich, Associate Planner, suggested looking into whether New York State would allow Warren County to publicize in communities outside of Warren County that had an MWBE population greater than ten percent. She pointed out if this was permitted the *The Amsterdam Record* could be utilized, which she felt may attract more MWBE to place bids on Warren County contracts.

There being no further Planning Department business to discuss, the EDC portion of the meeting commenced at 1:23 p.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Bartholomew, who advised the survey conducted in conjunction with the Adirondack Gateway Council pertaining to infrastructure needs in Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties was completed. He said the information was compiled to highlight the needs of infrastructure and presented at the two-day Infrastructure Conference in Albany, New York, which was sponsored by the Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) and co-sponsored by the EDC, the Adirondack Gateway Council and National Grid.

Mr. Bartholomew apprised roads, bridges, broadband, waste water, storm water and telecommunication were all identified as needs for the region. He stated the reason for the needs was due to the change in the NYSDOT funding structure, as funds were only awarded to preservation projects. As an example, he said unless a bridge was deemed unsafe funding would not be provided. He pointed out the same applied to road improvements. He noted the NYSDOT advised unless the road improvements were deemed a priority, the local municipalities would be required to fund the improvements within their own budgets due to the lack of available Federal funding.

Mr. Bartholomew stated the Regional Transportation Council estimated Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties would receive \$750 million in funding over the next thirty years for improvements

to roadways, walkways and bridges; however, he anticipated, the funding required for those projects to be over \$2 billion. He said these needs did not include improvements to existing broadband, waste water and septic systems which increased the total funding required to \$3.5 billion.

With regards to the survey being conducted by the Adirondack Gateway Council pertaining to broadband needs within the northern New York area, Mr. Bartholomew stated the first phase was completed and the next phase was to schedule meetings with officials throughout the area, as well as the providers. He said the study would incorporate identifying all the industrial parcels within the area to see what type of broadband capacity and power was available, as he felt this was pertinent information to be able to provide to out-of-state businesses inquiring about possible business location sites. He added the study would also include the connectivity of the bicycle and pedestrian sites available in the region, as well as the waste water treatment plants. He apprised the final report would be submitted in the first quarter of 2014 to the New York State Legislators and the Governor.

Mr. Bartholomew noted he felt the economic development in the region was changing with SUNY Adirondack appointing a new President, several local not-for-profit organizations hiring new Executive Directors, as well as Finch Pruyn, Tribune Media Services and Glens Falls Hospital appointing new Chief Executive Officers (CEO). He stated the EDC was undergoing a transition to the Public Authority Accountability Act which would commence on January 1, 2014. He said there would be three new Board members joining the EDC in 2014.

With regards to the updated EDC website, Mr. Bartholomew advised it would be online in approximately two weeks. He said some of the changes included additional Warren County information, as well as access information. As an example, he stated, if a search was initiated for a road in Warrensburg the site would provide the geographical figures from Warren County's General Information System (GIS), as well as the economic demographics within the area. He said he felt this would assist in attracting businesses to Warren County.

Mr. Bartholomew apprised the goal of the EDC in 2014 was building relationships that would reconcile rather than confront. He said the EDC was working in conjunction with Warren County, the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency (IDA), and the private sector to develop a detailed vision that would be presented at the January 2014 meeting. He stated he was looking forward to working with the Marketing Committee to promote the Warren County Airport, as he felt the Airport Project was instrumental to economic development in the region.

Mr. Taylor advised he was impressed with how quickly the data from the survey was compiled. Mr. Bartholomew noted the EDC was looking for new office space in downtown Glens Falls, as they had to vacate their present office shortly.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mr. Monroe, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board