

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: JANUARY 28, 2014**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR  
MONROE  
WOOD

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

SUPERVISORS BEATY  
STROUGH

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

EDWARD BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT  
JENNIFER SWITZER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD

FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BROCK

MCDEVITT

SEEBER

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 10:19 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Monroe 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 Edward Bartholomew, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who distributed copies of a handout to the Committee members and reviewed the document in detail; *a copy of the handout is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Bartholomew informed that many corporations and organizations had undergone leadership changes in 2013. He reported new Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) had been selected in 2013 for Glens Falls Hospital; Arrow Financial Corporation (Glens Falls National Bank); Finch Pruyn; Tribune Media; and The Children's World Awareness Museum. He added that SUNY (State University of New York) Adirondack and EDC Warren County had both hired new Presidents in 2013 and there were new Executive Directors for Crandall Library; The Hyde Museum; and The Wood Theater. Also in 2013, he continued, Daniel Stec, former Supervisor for the Town of Queensbury and former Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, was elected to the New York State Assembly and Kevin Geraghty, Supervisor for the Town of Warrensburg, was made the new Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Bartholomew reviewed the 2014 goals and initiatives of the EDC and noted the most important was to improve the working relationship between the EDC and County, Town, State and Federal Officials. He said the EDC wanted to increase their commitment to assisting local businesses and manufacturers in the area, as well as to promote available properties for economic development throughout Warren County. He said Warren County had a number of important industries which he listed as follows:

- the paper industry and related forestry and wood products;
- medical device companies;
- health care services and providers;
- hospitality and tourism;
- banking and financial services; and
- arts, cultural and entertainment venues.

Mr. Bartholomew stated the EDC would continue to work with County and Town Officials to develop priorities for infrastructure needs and assist in seeking funding for this development. He said they would continue to work with and support the ski areas and the expansion of the snowmobile trails in Warren County. He apprised the Committee members of Governor Cuomo's new initiative, Start-Up NY, which was intended to attract new or expanding businesses by offering no business, corporate, State, local, sales or property taxes for the businesses in the first ten years, as well as no franchise fees. He said the EDC would collaborate with Dr. Kristine Duffy, President of SUNY Adirondack, on workforce development for the Start-Up NY initiative. Mr. Monroe inquired about any restrictions pertaining to the distance from the college for the businesses and Mr. Bartholomew explained the program was in its infancy and many details were unclear. Mr. Bartholomew informed that Governor Cuomo's goal was to create 30,000 jobs by the end of 2014. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Bartholomew advised the EDC would assist efforts towards the eradication of invasive species in any way they could. He informed of efforts to attract an American Hockey League team to the area and efforts to improve the Glens Falls Civic Center. He apprised of the EDC's possible development and implementation of a new small business loan program for loans under \$10,000 through the Warren County LDC (Local Development Corporation). He said the Warren-Washington Bi-County Loan Fund would be finalized and implemented and he reminded the Committee members that this would be initiated using the \$500,000 grant awarded by New York State.

Mr. Bartholomew informed the EDC would focus on the County's industrial and business parks, as well as other available properties in various Towns. He said that due to the economy, most businesses were looking for vacant buildings which would be suitable for their purposes rather than new construction. He commented the EDC wanted to identify and market the existing vacant buildings in Warren County which may be suitable for these new businesses. He mentioned the EDC would assist in the promotion of the Railroad, as well as the Johnsbury/North Creek area for new businesses. He stated the EDC would be available to assist any of the Towns with projects, as needed.

Mr. Bartholomew stated that economic development was more than just attracting new businesses to the area. He added that working with the Tourism Department was a large part of the economic development in Warren County. He noted EDC brochures would be featured at locations where the Tourism Department displayed their brochures. He mentioned the possibility of a video which would include economic development which could be added to the Warren County Tourism video played in a loop at certain locations.

Mr. Bartholomew commented on the EDC's involvement in the Warren County Airport Advisory Marketing Committee which had held three meetings, to date. He said the EDC was developing some short term recommendations on marketing the Airport. He noted the EDC was working with Town of Queensbury and State Officials on the development of the former Ciba Geigy property. He mentioned the possibility of developing a Tourism and Hospitality Summit for this area in order to determine ways to pool resources. He said they were looking for ways to build and develop events around the Adirondack Balloon Festival.

Mr. Bartholomew informed of a meeting last week with Congressman Bill Owens regarding the development of a business trip to Montreal in order to solicit businesses related to major New York State industries. Mr. Monroe pointed out the value of the Canadian dollar had recently decreased significantly.

Mr. Bartholomew commented the EDC was currently looking for new office space as two insurance companies would be relocating to their current office space. He informed of a meeting in February where three new members would be appointed to the EDC Board representing the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls and he noted this would bring the EDC Board into compliance with PAAA (Public Authorities Accountability Act) requirements.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator, said he viewed the Railroad as not being just the Town of Johnsbury, but the entire western portion of Warren County and he asked that this be considered when marketing the Railroad. Mr. Bartholomew mentioned a business that was looking at that section of Warren County and he added the EDC had pointed out the benefits of the rail service. Mr. Taylor said he had recently attended an EDC meeting where Mr. Bartholomew had highlighted the ability of the Railroad to haul freight. Mr. Bartholomew stated that some of the businesses he had dealt with were looking to transport their products to the Port of Albany. He said the Port of Albany was growing and it would be beneficial to utilize the Railroad in that manner.

Mr. Taylor informed that a major function of the Economic Growth & Development Committee was to manage Warren County's contract with the EDC. He said Mr. Bartholomew made it a pleasure to work with the EDC and he kept the County informed. Mr. Taylor stated he had initially been opposed to the Warren County Airport Advisory Marketing Committee; however, he continued, he was pleasantly surprised at how well this Committee was functioning. Mr. Bartholomew commented the Warren County Airport Advisory Marketing Committee had a diverse membership and he felt they would be able to develop some short term and long term marketing goals for the Airport.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Wood and seconded by Mr. Monroe, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist