

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: OCTOBER 29, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
MONROE
WOOD
BEATY

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
JENNIFER SWITZER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR STROUGH

SUPERVISORS BROCK
GIRARD
MCDEVITT
SEEBER
SIMPSON

THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*

SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 10:57 a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. 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 Ed Bartholomew, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). He emphasized the importance of marketing the Airport, as well reviewing ways to assist with increasing the revenues of the facility while decreasing the expenses. He said he felt the Floyd Bennett Memorial Advisory Committee was working on developing a successful marketing plan for the Airport and stated he welcomed the suggestion of reviewing some of the cost benefits for the Airport.

Mr. Bartholomew pointed out last Friday's edition of the *Capital Business Review* included their promotion of the Industrial Facility located in the Town of Chester, as well as Carey Industrial Park located in the Town of Queensbury. He added a few weeks ago they promoted Tech Meadows at Glens Falls, which was owned by the City of Glens Falls and located in the Town of Queensbury

Mr. Bartholomew advised the EDC had met with the North Creek Business Alliance this past month and the prior month they met with the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce. He commented they were available to meet with other Chambers of Commerce throughout Warren County, as well as other business economic development groups in the region.

Mr. Bartholomew stated the EDC had coordinated a meeting with the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury regarding the Town of Queensbury's need to expand their sewer beyond the west side of Exit 18 of the Adirondack Northway. He said he felt the City of Glens Falls would be able to accommodate an increase in the amount of sewer capacity by making some adjustments to the structure of their sanitary sewer line. He emphasized whether the economic development occurred in the northern or southern portion of the County, the entire region benefitted when there was growth or expansion of a business or industry.

Mr. Bartholomew mentioned the EDC was working in conjunction with the Adirondack Gateway Council and the neighboring communities of the Towns of Kingsbury, Fort Edward and Hudson Falls on their sewage treatment plant. He continued they were also working on putting together a better governance for the City of Glens Falls sewage treatment plant, which served portions of the Town of Queensbury, the City of Glens Falls, the Village of South Glens Falls and the Town of Moreau. He said these communities received a \$900,000 grant to review the sewage treatment plant from a local government efficiency point, as well as to complete the Adirondack Gateway feasibility marketing study to display the growth in those areas over the next 20-25 years. He noted there would be no opportunity for growth if there was no access to water and sewer.

Mr. Bartholomew advised the EDC would be receiving final approval to amend contracts with the Adirondack Gateway Council to permit an expanded study and action plan for increased cell phone coverage in the northern portion of Warren County, eastern portion of Saratoga County and portions of Washington County. He said they would like to move forward to the next step and identify the areas where cell phone coverage could be improved upon. He stated they would be seeking funding from the Federal Communication Commission and the USDA (United State Department of Agriculture) to complete this study. He added they would also like to review expanding broadband capacity in certain portions of the region. He explained that when businesses considered expanding or relocating to this region they would inquire whether there was more than one broadband provider available. He noted cell phone coverage was essential for public safety, public health, as well as to conduct business. He pointed out restaurants and businesses throughout the region utilized their cell phones as a means of completing their credit card transactions and without this capability it would be difficult to transact business. He stated he felt it was their responsibility to ensure the proper measures were in place to conduct business in the region.

In conjunction with the Warren County One Stop and the New York State Department of Labor, Mr. Bartholomew apprised the EDC received a \$200,000 grant to provide three sessions of job training that would be conducted for unemployed and underemployed individuals. He said the first six-week session commenced on November 12, 2014 and the other Two six week sessions would be offered in 2015. He reiterated the primary focus was to assist the unemployed and underemployed from Warren County and the expanded area of Washington County and northern Saratoga County. He said the training session was comprised of a number of OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) related courses, a Hazmat course, asbestos training, as well as many other courses. He noted they were pleased with the cooperation they received from Warren County One Stop and the New York State Department of Labor in putting together this job training.

Mr. Bartholomew advised he had joined the Lakes to Locks Coalition Group which complimented the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor area. He explained they provided the connection of tourism and history together in this region that could dramatically impact the businesses in the outlying areas of Warren County, particularly in northern Warren County and Washington County.

Mr. Taylor commended Mr. Bartholomew for arranging the training program in conjunction with Warren County One Stop and the New York State Department of Labor, as he felt it would assist the participants with obtaining employment in the region. Mr. Bartholomew advised the New York State Department of Labor had updated their computer program to identify individuals who were unemployed and had some of the skill sets or previously worked in the kind of job related areas the course was providing training for. He said the computer program also matched the skills sets of the course with potential employers in the region for the next six months to a year in order to assist participants with obtaining employment upon the successful completion of the session. He noted the grant required that they graduate 80% of the participants from the program and that over 70% of

the participants become employed upon completion of the session. He stated this required them to track the individuals for three years upon the completion of the session. He commented upon the successful completion of these three sessions they would be eligible to apply for another round of funding because this program complimented other job training courses offered at the Warren County One Stop Center.

Mr. Beaty apprised he had confidence in the work Mr. Bartholomew was performing as President of the EDC. He commended Mr. Bartholomew for the detailed reports he provided to their Committee every month and added he felt Mr. Bartholomew had been successful in making a difference, as he was unsure if the training and ads Mr. Bartholomew referred to would have occurred had he not been in his position.

Mr. Bartholomew thanked the Committee for their support, as well as Ms. Wood and Mr. Monroe for their assistance with the Adirondack Gateway Council. He said the goal was to have an impact on the entire region rather than just the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury. He stated officials from all over were beginning to understand the importance of regional participation and partnerships in order to make a change.

Mr. Monroe apprised the APA (Adirondack Park Agency) was commencing a review of the State Land Master Plan which had a significant impact on Tourism in Warren County, as well as the entire Adirondacks region. He encouraged the Committee members to provide any feedback and/or comments they may have on this matter to the APA. He stated last night he emailed a number of key points regarding the matter to each member of the Board of Supervisors. He explained the Plan was supposed to be reviewed and revised every five years; however, he said, this had not occurred since 1987. He noted many changes had taken place since the last time the Plan was updated; therefore, he advised, he felt if changes were implemented to allow more usage and/or access to the land a real benefit could be realized to Warren County's economy. He mentioned the APA had four public hearings scheduled, the first of which was today in Ray Brook, New York. Mr. Bartholomew queried where the closest meeting to Warren County was scheduled. Mr. Monroe explained the closest hearing had been scheduled in Warrensburg; however, he said, the APA moved this particular meeting to Newcomb, New York. Mr. Bartholomew asked Mr. Monroe to forward him a copy of the email so the EDC could submit their comments regarding the matter. Mr. Taylor commented that Mr. Monroe provided a strong voice for individuals residing in the Adirondack Park and he felt they were pleased he had taken the lead on this matter.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Ms. Wood and seconded by Mr. Monroe, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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