

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: D. Root, D. Healy, C. Jessup, K. LaForge, D. Decker, D. Pullen, C. Crandall (Absent: T. Hopkins)

Others Present: L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, J. Foels, K. Graves, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, T. Miner, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, R. Root, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, J. Wood

Media Present: No media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:07 .m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Vice Chair Deb Root.

Attorney/Client Session

The Committee entered attorney/client session at 2:08 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. The Committee exited attorney/client session at 2:45 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried.

**Employment & Training
Monthly Report**

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch let her monthly report "speak" for itself. Then she went on to say that she meets regularly with the Allegany County Economic Development Team and participates in Department of Labor-sponsored webinars as a means of continuing education. Additionally, she attended a WIB Executive Committee meeting and next week, she will attend the New York State Association of Training and Employment Professionals Youth Conference. She added that new regulations will start in July that state that E&T will now be serving 18-24 year-old out-of-school youths. In the past, it was only to age 21. She went on to say that she had been contacted by the Rapid Response Team from the NYS DOL which has been notified of the layoffs at St. James Hospital in Hornell. That group will send her a list of Allegany County residents who are affected so that E&T can help them find new employment. They also heard from Radio Shack in Wellsville, which, as a result of its closing, will lose one full-time and three part-time positions. She said that the Regional Business Service Team meeting had been held the previous day; they meet every two months. People attend from Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. This includes people from the WIB offices and the Department of Labor, Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Development Consortium, Advance Buffalo, and several others.

**County Planner
Monthly Report**

County Planner Kier Dirlam announced that the Planning Board meeting scheduled for that evening had been cancelled. Mr. Dirlam noted that there had been two items tabled at last month's meeting. One of the communities whose issue had been tabled never responded, so the Planning Board couldn't act on that. As regards the second issue, however, the Town of Allen went ahead with its plan to put a ban on oil and gas exploration and extraction of any kind. He speculated that they have a new board and it seems to be more proactive than the former board. So, there was nothing to act upon there, and there had been no new referrals. There had

been a Hazard Mitigation meeting last month and another is scheduled for March 6. Mr. Dirlam said there is a lot of work to do in the next year. There are some grants that will come in to pay consultants to do most of the work because the book is 800 pages and updating an 800 page document every five years is no small task because it requires interaction with all 29 towns and 10 villages, and special districts. A Broadband meeting is scheduled for the next day. The comprehensive Planning School is ramping up rapidly. Mr. Dirlam said he has met with the MRB Group and they are very excited about this endeavor.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett told the Committee that she will attend the Allegheny Sport Show in Pittsburgh on February 21-22; the Erie Sport & Travel (PA) Show February 27-28, and the WNY Sport & Travel Show in Hamburg March 7-8. The Chamber has advertised in *Explore NY*, *Guest Quest*, and *Multi-view Canada*. Additionally, the Travel Guides have been sent to distributors. Ms. Hanchett noted that she expects the Festivals and Events Rack Cards for March, April, May, and June to be arriving soon. She went on to say that there will be a "Red Carpet" event on March 27 to screen the web show "Discovering Allegany County." The Business Conference will be held Thursday, April 9, at the Wellsville Campus of Alfred State. This year, it will focus on marketing workshop for our tourism-type businesses such as hospitality, retail, etc. The Chamber will be working with Break the Ice for this event. Ms. Hanchett distributed information regarding how Impact Studies/Tourism Economics determines sales tax revenues for the County. The 2015 Strategic Marketing and Communication Plan has been completed, she said, and she distributed copies of the document as well. There was also a matrix illustrating Allegany County Tourism Target Marketing 2015.

Economic Development/IDA

Monthly Report

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels chose to defer to Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood but took some time to answer Legislator Burt's questions on the Empire Development Zone, saying that there are 50 zone certified businesses throughout Allegany County. Unlike typical IDA PILOT Programs, the zone benefit program does not create "tax breaks" for certified companies, but rather provides state income tax credits. "Income tax benefits," as opposed to "tax breaks," do not reduce property tax and sales tax revenue to local and county entities. This was a calculated decision made in the early 2000s through expansion of the zone throughout the County. In 2012, certified businesses committed over \$18 million in new capital improvements. The businesses also employed over 2,100 employees with a payroll of over \$104 million. To date, the zone has been responsible for over \$202 million in capital investments, with their thousands of employees earning on average over \$47,000. This had been achieved without any adverse effect on the local economy. The 2013 results will be available in February 2015. Mr. Foels acknowledged Wendell Brown, former Executive Director of the Empire Zone, for his help in compiling the statistics.

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report

Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood spoke about the SMART objectives, saying there are 18 forms completed already. He distributed a document which shows the first cut of projects. He said that the Comprehensive Planning Implementation Group will also determine three things they will try to accomplish in the Comprehensive Plan this year. So when all is said and done, they will be the top 21 projects in the County. Currently, the document needs some

wordsmithing because it is the first time anyone has filled out a SMART form (specific, measurable, actionable, results-oriented, time-bound), but it is a good start. These 21 projects “that we all are working on together will aim to retain, expand, and bring new business into the County. They are directly aligned with growing business in our County. The next step, once we get all 18 aligned, will be to have three as team goals; that is, we will figure out what three things all of us together can work on to get there,” said Mr. Wood. He added that the number one objective is to come up with some measurements so at end of the year, “we can look back at economic development and know ‘did we win, or didn’t we?’ We need to figure that out, and that will probably be one of the team objectives,” he added. The measurement must be the same at the beginning of the process as it is in the end.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators