

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

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, S. Burt, L. Christman, P. Curran, K. Dirlam, E. Eicher, D. Fanton, K. Graves, L. Gridley, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, L. Hunsberger, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, A. Santangelo, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, N. Ungermann, J. Wood—Guest M. Lichy, WIB

Media Present: D. Donohue, *Olean Times Herald*; B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Ted Hopkins.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Root, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of February 18, 2015.

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood addressed the Committee, saying that he had invited members of the Allegany County Economic Development Team which includes Reita Lynch, Gretchen Hanchett, Leslie Gooch-Christman, Legislator Ted Hopkins, Ed Eicher, Laura Hunsberger, Mitch Alger, and himself. He distributed examples of completed SMART Objective sheets as well as copies of the 25 individual (Cooperative Extension has three; Planning has three; Chamber has three; CPGA has three; ACCORD has three; Employment & Training has three; and Development has three) and four team objectives, all aimed at keeping business and industry in Allegany County, helping business and industry to expand in Allegany County, or bringing new business and industry to Allegany County. He added that these are still being refined. The objectives are color-coded: green to indicate that the objective is on target to be completed as written; yellow to indicate that the objective is moderately at risk; and red to indicate that the objective is catastrophically at risk and will not happen within the hoped-for timeline. One example, as evidenced on the list, is the Park and Ride. The grant money has been re-allocated by the funding source, and the County will not receive those funds to complete that project. Mr. Wood went on to review the team objectives for the Committee: Branding, Benchmarks, CFA Applications, and Co-Op. He added that agriculture will play (does play) a large role in Allegany County and the Team's objectives will not ignore this. Mr. Wood and Ms. Hanchett will be attending the Select USA International Economic Development Summit. Mr. Wood said there would be approximately 2,500 attendees from around the world. He added that Ms. Hanchett has created information packets about Allegany County to hand out.

As far as IDA activity is concerned, Mr. Wood said there are a couple of businesses that are starting in the County which have had IDA involvement, but that he is not at liberty to go into further detail at this time.

Chairman Crandall commended Mr. Wood and the Team members for their hard work.

County Planner

Monthly Report

County Planner Kier Dirlam noted the following: there is a Planning Board meeting scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. He noted there is only one major item that needs to be discussed.

The Consolidated Funding Applications are expected to come out in May from New York State. His areas will run a training session on March 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the CrossRoads for municipalities and other entities to prepare them to apply. It is a nuts-and-bolts grant writing session so they can get their projects ready in advance and are not feeling pressured by the four-week turnaround required by the State. Mr. Dirlam requested any interested parties call the CrossRoads to be sure there are enough seats. The Comprehensive Planning School classes are scheduled to begin in April. MRB Group has put together a schedule and a syllabus for the program with goals, timelines, and outcomes. The participating communities will be required to work hard, but at the end of the six-month period, their comprehensive plans will be complete. There is only one possible snag...there is an election today in the Village of Alfred, and the governance may change which may change the agreement for that Village to participate. Mr. Dirlam said he will not know if this, indeed, will occur until he gets the election results. As regards Start Up New York, he said, Alfred State has been approved and is now able to accept applications from any interested businesses. Alfred University tells him it has passed the first test, and now it is up to Albany to decide if it makes the final cut. He understands that Houghton College has applied, but he has had no word on its status.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce**Monthly Report**

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett reminded Committee members of the Red Carpet Event to be held Friday, March 27, at the Wellsville Country Club. One hundred of 150 available tickets have been sold. It will be all glitz and glamor as there will be press attending as well as "paparazzi"; there will be live radio interviews, Big Band music, multiple food stations, "Academy Awards," and Business Awards. Keynote speaker will be the executive producer of the Fireball Run Jay Sentz. Although former Buffalo Bill football star Thurman Thomas (the I Love NY representative for Western New York) is unable to make the event, Ms. Hanchett will meet with him to determine/create an event which he will be able to attend. Ms. Hanchett went on to say that the Tourism Packaging Workshop will be held April 9, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Wellsville Campus of Alfred State. The workshop will be led by Andrea Bornheim, Tourism Marketing Sales Executive at Break the Ice Media, and Nicole Mahoney, CEO of Break the Ice Media. The firm, located in Rochester, has successfully implemented tourism marketing programs for destinations and attractions, helping them realize an increase in group sales and visitation. Ms. Hanchett added that she had met with the eight-county branding group, but so far there has been no agreement on a branding tag line. Ms. Hanchett noted that her goal is to have outfitter companies come to the area to help visitors and residents embrace the great outdoors. Finally, Ms. Hanchett noted the Breakfast Breakout program on Friday, April 10, at 7:30 a.m. the BOCES sponsored by Relph Benefit Advisors. It will deal with ACA Eligibility Management and IRS Mandatory Reporting.

Employment & Training**Monthly Report**

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch ceded the floor Michelle Lichy, Executive Director, Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board, Inc., who came to talk about some changes and the Workforce innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Ms. Lichy explained: “The way that money currently flows is that in the beginning, when WIA was implemented, the counties decided that the Department of Social Services in Cattaraugus County, and Employment and Training in Allegany County, would be the operators of the one-stop centers in their respective counties. That was allowable under the act because the law said that you needed to have a consortium of three or more partner organizations, or your operator had to be competitively procured. That’s the way it has been operating since the implementation of WIA in 2000. WIOA is different in that it requires that one-stop operators be competitively selected which means that now the WIB must release a Request for Proposals (RFP) that would be open to any public or private, for-profit or not-for-profit entities including NYS Department of Labor to respond to that RFP and submit a proposal to operate the one-stop centers. Also, a consortium can still apply, including those consortiums currently operating the centers can develop a proposal and submit it. It will be up to the Board to select the proposal and certify the operators it thinks will best deliver the services.... Both Centers have a very strong history of providing services and meeting all of the federal performance measures and the state measures that NYS DOL set separately. And it has to be competitively selected, not competitively bid, so it’s not a requirement where the lowest possible bid has to be selected. There has to be a competitive arena where the operators are selected. I don’t really expect it to change a lot in our two-county area. The only other difference there would be in the request for proposals is that currently, the one-stop centers receive adult, dislocated workers, youth, and administrative funds. What we’re looking at is submitting a separate RFP for youth-program funds because the youth program is different in its eligibility and the services that have to be provided, so the RFP for one-stop operator will only include adult and dislocated worker dollars in it. Likewise, as with the youth RFP—the current providers that we have possess a long history of providing excellent service and meeting all performance measures. It would be very difficult for a new provider to come in and provide those services without that history and qualifications behind them. So, I really don’t expect a whole lot to change except for the whole way we need to go about soliciting the dollars and awarding the dollars with contracts.”

New Business

Search for Development Director

Legislator Hopkins noted that at a recent Committee of the Whole meeting, they talked about the search for a new Development Director. Today, he is seeking an update on the process. It was noted that the job description is being updated. There was some discussion on how to advertise the position. It was stated that a head hunter agency would cost 25-30 percent of the base salary. It was proposed that initially, postings would go out on the professional websites such as NYSAC, NYSDOL, Economic Development Association, Personnel Officer Network, etc., which would not cost the County any advertising dollars. The group agreed with this proposal.

Attorney/Client Session

The Committee entered attorney/client session to discuss contractual agreements at 2:50 p.m. on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. The Committee exited attorney/client session at 3:07 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Root, and carried.

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