

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

October 21, 2015

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, C. Braack, S. Burt, P. Curran, T. Dolan, K. Giglia, K. Graves, L. Gridley, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Scott, R. Sobeck-Lynch, N. Ungermann, J. Wood

Media Present: B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Vice Chairman Deb Root.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of September 16, 2015.

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report

Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood spoke about the status of the Truck Stop. He stated it has been cleaned up, but he has not turned on the lights at night. The water has been turned on, and it seems to be in good shape. The water will be air tested for leaks. Mr. Wood stated the site is "shovel ready" in regards to the utilities.

Mr. Wood talked about the Alfred State Contract. There is a meeting on November 2, 2015. He is hoping the State Controller's Office responds regarding the Contract by that meeting. On December 14, 2015, there will be a presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting. This presentation will consist of a statement of work, a report back from the meeting in April, how to join business and industry, and how to join government and education leadership to form one voice. They will also recommend changes to the economic development structure; this will not include staff.

Mr. Wood gave an update on the Park and Ride. He stated he spoke with KHEOPS this morning regarding a letter they sent to the Federal Transit Administration in August with all of the questions answered. In September, they received a letter stating they have not been able to do anything with the letter because of staffing issues. Mr. Wood asked KHEOPS for an update including journal discussions on the Park and Ride, so they can involve Congressman Tom Reed if they have to. Mr. Wood noted it needs to be fully approved, so they can move to the design phase of the Park and Ride.

Mr. Wood discussed the waterline, and the revenue to pay back the \$3.5 million bond for the project. Mr. Wood worked with Jeff Smith from Municipal Solutions to identify some options and ideas to mitigate the cost of the waterline. Mr. Wood said he spoke with Mr. Smith, Dan Spitzer (IDA Legal Counsel), and County Treasurer Terri Ross about creating a Waterline Cost Mitigation Task Group. The Group will look at grants and other revenue streams to try to cut the overall cost of the waterline. Mr. Wood noted this will benefit everyone including the businesses and residents on County Route 20 along the waterline, the County Taxpayer, and Waterline Administration Authority.

Mr. Wood requested an attorney/client session to discuss a contract issue at 2:04 p.m. Legislator Healy made a motion to table the attorney/client session until after the committee reports, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Office of Planning

Monthly Report

County Planner Kier Dirlam announced the Planning Board meeting scheduled for tonight was cancelled. He stated the Allegany County Telecommunications Development Corporation (LDC) has had at least four meetings. He noted there will be items coming up rapidly in the next few months for the LDC to address. Mr. Dirlam stated the LDC is still trying to find some community members to be on the Board. Chairman Crandall noted once the other names of the members are confirmed, they will be brought to the full Board for approval.

Mr. Dirlam stated the office space issue with the Allegany County EMS Council in the Crossroads Building that were discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting on October 7, 2015, have been addressed. He met with Personnel Office Bobby Budinger and Emergency Management and Fire Director Jeff Luckey to create a plan. Then, he spoke with Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett and Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood about the plan. As a result, the Office of Tourism moved to the front of the building. Mr. Wood is now located in what was the Tourism's office space. Mr. Luckey moved his operations into what was the larger Tourism space. Allegany County EMS will have their old space back once everyone is moved. Mr. Dirlam noted the offices of Planning and Development, Tourism, and Emergency Management and Fire all lost square footage in the move. Mr. Dirlam thanked everyone involved for being accommodating. Finally, he stated a report came out in Business First highlighting \$136.5 million construction projects in Allegany County that were completed, or are under construction.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett reported she attended the Fireball Run, Allegany Artisans Tour, Ridgewalk, and the Garlic Festival. Ms. Hanchett stated they have advertised in *Explore NY* and *All that Jazz*. Ms. Hanchett added Steve Havey is now the Tourism Specialist. He recently retired from the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce, and brings professional and expertise to the position. She also talked about moving to the front of the Crossroads building, and trying to create a warm and welcoming reception area.

She noted she met with the Regional Tourism Group to work on a regional app, not just one for Allegany County. She said the group is looking at a regional app with Tour Blend, and the County is currently on the Tour Blend app if you download it. It is a website where you can get demographics about who is coming through the County, and where people are coming from. She noted she has called her State representative to make sure they can utilize regional money for this app. She added the group is also looking at doing a regional travel promotion for winter, spring, and summer. It will be created using I Love New York funds, and can be used on websites or in commercials.

Ms. Hanchett asked Legislator Root to speak about the Fireball Run since this was her first time participating. Legislator Root noted the amazing reception they received at every stop. She stated almost every day of the race, someone came up to their team and said they lived in Allegany County, were from Western New York, or knew someone who went to school in the area. She noted the Williamsburg, Virginia City Administrator graduated from Alfred University. He spoke fondly of the area, and would like to come back and visit. He is willing to talk with the

County about how to be a destination on the Fireball Run. Legislator Root stated they met with dignitaries and tourism representatives in every city on the route. She stated the participants on the Fireball Run were an array of people from all over the world, and very successful business people. Legislator Root stated she learned a lot of United States history during the Fireball Run. The teams were given a mission every morning with clues, and had to find where they had to go. Along the way, they developed friendships with other teams, and worked with them to complete the missions. Legislator Root highlighted their experience of meeting four astronauts, including American Jon McBride, and eating dinner under the Atlantis Space Shuttle. Ms. Hanchett added it was great to have Legislator Root participate with her. She stated Legislator Root did a great job, and was a fabulous representative of Allegany County. Ms. Hanchett also said they made great connections, and they have become part of a global group. They continue to be in contact with the people they met on the Fireball Run.

Employment & Training

Monthly Report

Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch submitted her monthly report. She added in October, three people found full-time positions, and one person obtained a part-time position. One person was attending the employment assistance class, and found employment. Legislator Pullen asked what kind of positions people were obtaining. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated they are really good jobs, and Dresser-Rand in Wellsville is currently hiring. Legislator Healy asked if the 5.3 percent of active people on the unemployment rolls includes people who have given up on looking for work. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated it does not, and it relies on self-reporting.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated she is coordinating the County Employee United Way pledge drive. County employees will receive pledge information with their paychecks on Thursday, and United Way Director Barb Bates will be at the Board meeting on Monday.

Budget Transfer

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from WIOA Administration Regular Pay to WIOA Adult Supportive Services because Employment and Training is spending more funds in Adult Supportive Services based on their client's needs, and the Workforce Investment Board increased maximum Supportive Services allowed per participant from \$500 to \$1,000 for adults. She said supportive services include uniforms and mileage.

From:

CD16400.101 WIOA Administration Regular Pay \$5,000

To:

CD16401.402 WIOA Adult Supportive Services \$5,000

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Attorney/Client Session:

The Committee entered attorney/client session at 2:32 p.m. after coming off the table on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. The Committee exited attorney/client session at 3:12 on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Scott, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators