

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

December 16, 2015

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: L. Bliven, H. Budinger, S. Burt, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, K. Graves, L. Gridley, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, J. Hopkins, L. Hunsberger, H. Kottwitz, 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 2:10 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Vice Chairman Deb Root.

Approval of Minutes

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

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report

Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood said the statement of work is in from Alfred. He added the Alfred Contract was signed by the County, and sent to Albany. It has been reviewed by the Chancellor's Office, Controller's Office, and he is anticipating it coming back any day now. He hopes to be up and running by the first of the year. He said they have a plan in place with Alfred that has three strategies and nine objectives. Mr. Wood talked about economic development, and that two more potential developers including a hotel are interested in the thirty-acre site. He noted things are moving along well, and hopes to see some movement out there in the spring of 2016.

Office of Planning

Monthly Report

Director of Planning Kier Dirlam gave his monthly report.

- Mr. Dirlam announced there will be a short Planning Board meeting tonight, and the annual dinner will be January 20, 2016, at Moonwinks. The MRB Group will talk about their experience of working on the Comprehensive Planning School effort. Official invites will be sent out in the next week or so.
- Southern Tier West Board meeting is tomorrow. The County is down two Board members, and new people are needed. He noted each County gets five representatives, and Allegany County only has three.
- The Comprehensive Plan School classes finished last month. They have requested a one-year extension from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) because the towns and villages have to write their plans, and they are just getting started.
- Mr. Dirlam talked about the Crossroads waterline. He said the project has been spilt into two phases to take advantage of funding that wasn't previously

available. They are in the process of applying for funds that may be able to help with approximately the first mile of the project in Friendship. The initial phase will support the housing along County Route 20, and will also bring municipal water to the rest area on Interstate 86. Legislator Fanton asked about the timeline for the grant, and when it will be awarded. Mr. Dirlam replied in the next few months, and they are actively applying. First, they have to submit a cover letter, and if it meets the basic requirements then they move to the next step. Development Team Leader Jack Wood added at one point there was misunderstanding about the Mitigation Waterline Task Force. Mr. Wood said the question was if they were over budget, and the answer is no. There is money out there, and they are looking at trying to offset the costs to save the County and taxpayers money. He noted the funds Mr. Dirlam talked about came out of the meetings. At one meeting they identified \$400,000 to \$500,000 that may be available to help with the project. Chairman Crandall asked if the Town of Friendship will be the applicant. Mr. Dirlam said yes; it will move faster because of the health and safety issues of that section of the waterline.

- Mr. Dirlam talked about Business and Development. He said the available business site database is up on the internet with links from alleganyplanning.com and from alleganycountyny.com. It will be updated at least once a month. He said they met with Buffalo and Niagara Partnership to show them a half a dozen sites, and have them assist in marketing available locations. Mr. Dirlam reported the October workforce statistics said the unemployment rate for Allegany County was 4.8 percent. Legislator Root asked what contributed to the decrease in the unemployment rate. Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch reported in our area manufacturing has been big. Legislator Fanton noted Saputo hired about 35 to 40 people.
- Four municipalities and EMS attended a grant workshop offered by KHEOPS last week. Mr. Dirlam noted EMS is interested in applying for a Records Management Grant, and this would help with their space issues. Mr. Dirlam said they received a few grants in the County through the Governor's Consolidated Funding Application Process including \$1.5 million for Alfred State and their bio-refinery project. Mr. Dirlam said the list was short this year. They had a meeting with some of the bigger towns and villages, and they reported they already have projects in place, and they don't have the staff to take on anything more right now. Mr. Dirlam noted there were a few projects that applied, and were not funded. Allegany County has the ability to get more projects, but there is a lack of administrative staff for infrastructure projects. He believes in the future they may have to look at ways to support the infrastructure projects.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett reported on a few items. She wanted to let the Committee know the grant application was completed and submitted. She noted they are going to get about \$6,500 more than they have been receiving from the I Love New York Grant. She said it is about \$61,756. They are going to continue the billboards on Interstate 86 and Route 219. Ms. Hanchett also reported the travel guides have been sent to the printers, and thanked Steve Havey. She also thanked Lee Gridley and Deb Aumick for proof reading it. Ms. Hanchett said they are starting the rack card process

and the hunting brochures. They will also start the regional travel shows in February. Ms. Hanchett reported on the tourism website and the digital marketing. She wants to make sure it is interactive. They are also working on the Tour Blend Travel app. She added the regional travel promotional commercial will be done the end of January. Ms. Hanchett also stated she is working with a local campground as one of the outfitters. They are working to build tourism packages focusing on the outdoors.

Ms. Hanchett said the Fireball Run had their first site visit from November 30, to December 5, 2015. They visited about twelve locations in Allegany County, and sites in Cattaraugus County including Salamanca and Ellicottville. They received an email saying they are officially the Western New York destination. They are excited about this regional project, and will have an official page as the Western New York destination. They will be working to make sure all the areas are represented. She said they came up with some neat missions in the area. There will be a couple of stops in Allegany County, and they will be on the promotional material. Ms. Hanchett said Chairman Crandall will have to do a video that will be put on the destination website. Legislator Root asked if the video will be Allegany County or three locations. Ms. Hanchett said it will be the three locations. She also said they will have a pin designed. She said the Fireball Run will visit two more times.

Employment & Training

Monthly Report

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch stated the unemployment rating went down from last year. The United States rate was 5.5 percent; it is now 4.8 percent. In New York State it was 5.7 percent, and is now 4.5 percent. In Allegany County it was 5.1 percent, and this year it is 4.8 percent. Cattaraugus County was at 5.7 percent last year, and is 5.1 percent this year. Legislator Healy asked if this number is based on the number of people on unemployment. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch said it is part of the calculation, and she will put the methodology in his mailbox.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch distributed her monthly report, and noted there were 32 new jobs listed in Allegany County with the Department of Labor last month. She said today, there is about the same number. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch said Western New York is now sending out the job listing daily to her. Legislator Ungermann asked what kind of jobs are available, and if they are seasonal. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch responded they are a variety of jobs available including engineers, architects, and front-end. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch will email the list to the Committee members.

She said they served five Veterans this month, including one with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This young man wants to be a tractor trailer truck driver. They were able to refer him to Access VR since he is a Veteran with a disability. They are paying for his entire tuition and support services. She noted Employment and Training does not have to pay the \$1,800 towards his training.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch reported they are 6 months into the WIOA program. They contract with Literacy West and Southern Tier Traveling Teacher to improve individual's basic skills or obtain their high school equivalency diploma. She noted one lady completed certified nursing assistance (CNA) training. She is working 20 hours a week at The Pines at \$9.50 hour, and is almost at the end of her ninety-day probation period. There are income criteria, and they are serving youth up until the age of twenty-four.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch announced the business after hours is tonight at Cunning, Stauring, & Associates, Inc. on 80 N. Main Street in Wellsville. She also said County Administrator Mitch Alger has been attending the Cattaraugus Allegany Workforce Investment Board meetings. She hopes someone can continue to attend because it really helps. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch reported she

has been working with the Department of Social Services with the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) population. The federal regulations for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are changing in January, and people received letters in November about the change. Previously, if you need food they would give it to you if you met income eligibility requirements, and you had to recertify every six months. Now, there are some requirements that you have to look for work. So, they have been meeting with DSS to identify some of the people who will be affected and what services they need. She noted it is a big change, and you can only go so many months without complying before you lose them forever. Legislator Healy wonders why it is a big change. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch said she doesn't know why, and they are hoping to find jobs for people.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch discussed how she works with DSS for cost avoidance. In temporary assistance, the County share is 79 percent and the government share is 21 percent. She said years ago she met with Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant, and they decided to do some things differently. Once you apply for public assistance and you are employable without dependent children, you have to go to a ten-day employee assessment class. She said twenty-one people came in by assessment through DSS in November. Nineteen were denied, one person was exempt, and two people completed the class. Out of the nineteen people denied, only one person reapplied. Just in November, they had a cost avoidance of \$49,000 in temporary assistance. If you look over six-months, there was \$103,000 in Medicaid savings. In SNAP, they saved over \$31,000. For one year in temporary assistance, they saved \$465,480. She noted they will meet with DSS again on December 30. Legislator LaForge said they will look at SNAP at the next Human Services meeting. Legislator Root commented that is really good news, and congratulations.

Appointments to Planning Board

Chairman Crandall plans to reappoint the following Allegany County Planning Board members to a new three-year term commencing January 1, 2016, and expiring December 31, 2018:

William Emrick, Scio (District II)
Bryan D. Fanton, Wellsville (District III)
Lee Gridley, Wellsville (District IV)

The Chairman also plans to make the annual ex-officio appointments to the Planning Board as follows:

Guy R. James, Public Works Superintendent, Scio
Terri L. Ross, County Treasurer, Angelica
Charles O. Jessup, Ways & Means Committee Chairman, Alfred Station

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried to sponsor a resolution, confirming the Chairman's appointments. **Prepare Resolution**

Crossroad Building Leases

County Administrator Mitch Alger stated they thought the leases would be ready for approval. However, they are not ready, so they will have to wait until next month.

Land Bank Project

Legislator LaForge stated Chautauqua County Land Bank did a presentation at the last Inter-County meeting in Chautauqua County. He said they have received \$2.85 million in Attorney General Grants. He added the money can be used for administration and mixed used property. Legislator LaForge noted mixed used property includes property that has a store front downstairs and apartments upstairs. It doesn't have to be all residential. He said the next round of funding will include 10 more land banks, and new land banks will be given preference. He added the New York State Department of Labor has dropped the asbestos notification fees for municipal generated projects. Legislator LaForge stated the County land bank will need a resolution, and they are looking to request one after the first of the year. Legislator Root asked about the timeline for new grant funds. Legislator LaForge said he didn't know, but said there is a minimal cost of incorporating a land bank.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 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