

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 17, 2016

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: L. Ballengee, S. Burt, C. Clark, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Graves, L. Gridley, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, J. Margeson, T. Miner, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Scott, R. Sobeck-Lynch, J. Wood

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chair Deb Root.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of January 20, 2016.

Budget Transfer from A1990.4 Contingency to A6430.4 Economic Development

Interim County Administrator John Margeson and Alfred State Vice President of Economic Development Craig Clark requested a resolution to transfer funds in the amount of \$83,400 from A1990.4 Contingency to A6430.4 Economic Development. Pursuant to the Agreement approved by Resolution #191-15 on August 24, 2015, between the County and SUNY Alfred College of Technology for economic development services, a request is made for additional budgetary funding to finance anticipated future conference and travel expenses, promotional materials to market Allegany County to potential entrepreneurs, and for entrepreneurial activities. The funds should be appropriated as follows:

From:	To:	
A1990.429 Contingency	A6430.402 Office of Development – Transportation	\$12,745
A1990.429 Contingency	A6430.405 Office of Development – Conference	\$32,920
A1990.429 Contingency	A6430.482 Office of Development – Contractual	<u>\$37,735</u>
	Total:	\$83,400

Dr. Clark stated some of the money will be used for web development, and for having a common image on letterhead, business cards, etcetera. The funds will also include travel and conferences. He said they are planning on attending the SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C. This conference will be a good opportunity to build connections including the possibility of foreign investment. Dr. Clark ensured money was budgeted in case they had to travel abroad, so they would not have to ask for money at the last minute. He added he will speak with Interim County Administrator John Margeson if there is a large travel item. Legislator Hopkins asked how many people are going to conference. Dr. Clark said multiple people are going. They will have a booth, and participate in the workshops. Dr. Clark stated the priority is to get the website going. He added he will report regularly on how the money is being spent. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Economic Development

Monthly Reports

Alfred State Vice President of Economic Development Craig Clark distributed his monthly report, and highlighted a couple of areas. He stated they have been working hard to get data for website. He noted they have been spending time working on the content for the website. Legislator Laforge asked who is going to manage the day-to-day operation of the website. Dr. Clark said that is something they will have to discuss with the web developer, but he hopes most of it can be managed internally. IT Director Keith Hooker stated if it is a County website it can be hosted here or somewhere else. Legislator Root stated they have been discussing different content management software. The goal is to make it easy for someone to upload the information.

Dr. Clark reported they developed a budget, and a plan on how to work with over 800 companies in the County. They have discussed how to prioritize them, and will communicate with at least half of them on a regular basis. Dr. Clark stated Belvac is moving into a building on Sugar Hill. They were one of the companies that have moved out of the incubator in Alfred. He noted they are going to have a large operation, and will build onto the facility. He has also talked to some companies that are thinking about expanding.

There is a meeting on March 15, 2016, with Senator Cathy Young and the U.S. Forest Service to discuss the Bio-refinery Development and Commercialization Center. He also believes the Governor will be attending the meeting. He thinks they may get some Federal funding. He noted the Senator and Governor are also looking for funds to get the center up and running.

Dr. Clark talked about the 76 West Clean Energy Competition. He said it will be announced soon, but they are already accepting applications. It covers the Southern Tier from Binghamton to Jamestown. This competition is for innovative, clean-energy businesses to locate or create jobs in the Southern Tier. The Grand prize is \$1 million, one \$500,000 award, and four \$250,000 awards. There will be a workshop on March 4, 2015, at the incubator in Alfred about the competition.

Dr. Clark discussed the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process that is coming up. He said they are trying to be proactive, and would like to host a session on the CFA in the area. He said in the past they haven't been successful in getting CFAs here, but they hope to get some money for Allegany County. He said the challenge is to align the projects with the funding streams. Chairman Crandall said there were also administrative challenges when the CFA was awarded. Dr. Clark also noted it is a reimbursement grant. He said you have to spend the money to get reimbursed.

Industrial Development Agency

Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood discussed the following items:

1. He has been working with Dr. Clark to define roles, and what they will be doing. He sent information to County Attorney Tom Miner in order to redo his contract. He noted it should be coming to the Committee for review and approval soon. He is going to focus on the I-86 area. Mr. Wood stated they are adding people to the steering committee. Two or three more industries will join, and Legislator Root will be on the Committee. The next meeting for the Steering Committee will be an update to go from strategy to implementation. He said the goal is to use the three strategies, nine objectives, and the other initiatives to keep business, industry, government, and education on the same page to move economic development forward.

2. From June 19 to June 21, 2016, he will be attending the SelectUSA Conference in Washington, D.C. with Dr. Clark. They will have a booth at the conference. He said internet is very important in bringing businesses to the area. Mr. Wood said they have a highway system in place to have a 1 gigabyte (GB) market. He added they have the fiber capability of having 1 GB from Hornell to Wellsville to Houghton, and from East to West on I-86. Legislator Healy asked if it was part of the Ion. Mr. Wood said yes, they need last mile providers.
3. Mr. Wood reported there are two projects they have been working on. They are both energy to green. He said on a scale from one to ten, the potential for a deal is a six or seven, and the chances of it happening are a one or two. He said they are moving forward and making progress. Legislator Decker stated he heard there was a moratorium put on wind turbines in New York. Mr. Wood said he didn't know about it. He said the future of green energy includes wind. Dr. Clark noted there wasn't a way to meet the Governor's green energy targets without wind. He also said there is another energy project in discussion, and he met with the owners this past week.
4. Mr. Wood gave an update on the I-86 area. He noted they have been working with HVS. They have ongoing discussion with seven hotel developing companies. He said the goal is to have something concrete when the weather breaks.
5. Mr. Wood talked about three possible developers for the truck stop. They have three possibilities, with one letter of commitment. He hopes to have news in the spring. Legislator Root asked about a brief update on the waterline. Mr. Wood said there are many moving parts. He talked about the waterline and the reservoir. He said they were able to secure funds of about \$1 million to help pay for the waterline. They will be able to have a twelve-inch line, and a reservoir. He hopes the water will be ready to turn on in January 2017, but it may take longer. Legislator Root asked if there was any impact on other development. Mr. Wood said no. The truck stop water system was recently upgraded, and a new heater was put in. Legislator Healy asked if it was well water. Mr. Wood replied yes, and it is purified.

Office of Planning

Monthly Report

Director of Planning Kier Dirlam pre-filed his monthly report. He was not in attendance. Legislator Hopkins asked about the timetable for the land banks. Legislator LaForge noted they have submitted an application to Empire State Development. He added the funding application should be going out soon. The Attorney General announced there will be another \$550 million available; however, not all of the money will be going to the land banks.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett stated they have been busy, and are ready to go to the Pittsburgh Travel Show this weekend. She said filming for the County's travel show starts next week. They will film Swain, snowmobiling, and Chairman Crandall's welcome message to Allegany County for the Fireball Run. She reported she has met with Craig Clark to discuss the next steps for the Manufacturing Council. Ms. Hanchett said they have some ideas to move the Manufacturing Council forward. Ms. Hanchett announced Thurman Thomas will be attending and honored at the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce's Dinner on April 1, 2016. Tickets will be available soon.

Ms. Hanchett announced the Rushford Economic Development Organization (REDO) has become a chapter of the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce. This is the second chapter. Last month, Alfred Business Association became a chapter. Ms. Hanchett is continuing to work on getting more chapters.

Ms. Hanchett stated the Business After Hours is tonight at the Cuba Cheese Shop. This is co-hosted by Allegany County United Way and the Cuba Cheese Shop. She encourages people to attend after the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Trout Run.

Legislator Root asked for an update on the Fireball Run. Ms. Hanchett reported she has been working with Salamanca and Ellicottville, and they have worked on a logo. She added Legislator Root is working on a pin. The participants will stay at the Casino, and the pre-dinner will be on September 22, 2016. An individual from Rushford Lake has offered to pay for most of the cost to host the dinner and buses to bring people in. Legislator Root asked if there will be two more site visits. Ms. Hanchett stated they are working on it, and there is a meeting on Thursday night. She hopes to bring in some spectacular historic objects for the Fireball Run.

Employment & Training

Monthly Report

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch distributed her monthly report including the unemployment rates by county for New York State. She reported the unemployment rate is better than a year ago. She noted Business Owners are not included in unemployment statistics because they do not know if they are working or not. They are considered unemployed.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch talked about a success story. A young lady completed her work experience at Swain. She has thrived there, and has been hired part-time. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch also talked about a young man who wanted his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). He completed the class, and was hired by the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch reported she continues to work with the Department of Social Services and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). There is a work requirement for individuals receiving SNAP assistance if they are employable and don't have dependent children. She believes in Maine they started the work requirement in December 2014. At that time, 13,000 people in Maine were receiving food stamps. By March 2015 it decreased to 3,000 people. She stated in March they will offer a series of five workshops on maintaining assistance, and meeting the work requirements.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated her office is fully staffed as of February 1, 2016. It has been a year since they have been fully staffed. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch announced the Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours is tonight from 5 to 7 p.m. at Trout Run.

Legislator Root asked if businesses in the County were relatively healthy this year. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch said some people are laid off, and one business has had a significant reduction in the workforce. However, she thinks it is pretty stable, and hasn't seen a pattern in unemployment. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated there are seventy-four employment opportunities at thirty-three different businesses in the County, such as Kmart, Community Bank, Saputo, Dresser Rand, and Alfred University listed with the Department of Labor. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch said all of the listings can be found at their office. She added not all jobs are advertised in the newspaper.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried

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