

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 16, 2016
NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: L. Ballengee, H. Budinger, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, B. Gamache, K. Graves, L. Gridley, G. Hanchett, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, L. Hunsberger, J. Margeson, T. Miner, K. Monroe, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Scott, R. Sobeck-Lynch, N. Ungermann, R. Whitney, J. Wood

Media Present: B. Clark, *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 Vice Chairman David Pullen.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of February 8, 2016.

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck Lynch requested a name be removed from the minutes of February 17, 2016.

Attorney/Client Session

County Attorney Tom Miner requested an attorney/client session. The committee entered attorney/client session at 2:01 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. The committee exited attorney/client session at 2:04 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried.

Approval of February 17, 2016 Minutes

Legislator Jessup made a motion to table the minutes of February 17, 2016, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Accept and Appropriate Disability Employment Initiative

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch requested a resolution to increase budget appropriations for the acceptance of the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) funding in the amount of \$7,306. Allegany Employment and Training Center received \$7,306 of the \$19,288. The difference was given to Cattaraugus County One-Stop.

Appropriations		
CD16400.201	Adm Equipment	\$7,306
Revenue		
CD16400.4701.00	Adm Federal Aid	\$7,306

Legislator Decker asked why there was a big discrepancy in funds between Allegany County and Cattaraugus County. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated it is based on population. She stated

they receive 37.88 percent of the total. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Appointment to Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority

Chairman Crandall plans to appoint Jerry Scott of Cuba, New York, to fill the remainder of Timothy O'Grady's three-year term on the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority commencing immediately and expiring August 27, 2016. Legislator Decker asked why it was going to the Committee now for approval since it was already acted on by the Board on Monday. Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle stated it is confirmation of the Chairman's appointment. She noted there are three different kinds of appointments: chairman appointments, committee appointments, and chairman appointments that have to be confirmed by Board resolution. In this case, it is a chairman appointment that has to be confirmed by a Board resolution. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Amend Resolution Approving Lease with IDA

County Attorney Tom Miner stated this amendment will correctly set forth the amount of space at approximately 5,275 square feet as opposed to 12,500 square feet. The actual lease agreement was correct. The 5,275 square feet is exactly the same amount of space leased as before. Mr. Miner would like it corrected to avoid confusion. Mr. Miner added they approved the proper lease; it is just changing the language in the resolution. Legislator Jessup stated they are not changing any costs. Mr. Miner stated the cost is the same. Legislator Hopkins requested to abstain from voting. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. The request to amend the resolution was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried.

Economic Development

Monthly Report

Alfred State Vice President of Economic Development Craig Clark pre-filed his monthly report. Mr. Clark could not attend the meeting because he was in Albany.

Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report

Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood stated he will be attending the SelectUSA Conference from June 19, to June 21, 2016, in Washington, D.C. Alfred State Vice President of Economic Development Craig Clark will also be attending. Mr. Wood noted it is the largest international economic development conference in the world. He stated they will have an Allegany County Economic and Industrial Development booth, and will showcase some projects. Mr. Wood noted last year 2,500 people, 80 countries, 40 United States Ambassadors, and half of the President's cabinet attended. He said it is exciting, and they will give a comprehensive report when they get back.

Mr. Wood said two pilots will be finished this year. They are the Sanzo Corporation at the former Acme Building in Cuba. The other one is R.S. Maher & Son in Hume. R.S. Maher & Son is a company out of Bliss, New York, which has expanded their operation. They have a 20,000 to 30,000 square foot building, and have already put \$500,000 into building repairs. They do heavy

equipment repair, and long haul pulling. The ribbon cutting will be on April 28, 2016, and invitations will be going out.

Mr. Wood reported the hotel truck stop is progressing, and there is a lot of activity going on. He said they have a commitment on the truck stop with a developer, and they are working on it every day. Mr. Wood said the waterline is back on target. He thinks they can turn water on at the Belvedere in January of 2017, if they choose to run the line. He is trying to get it "shovel ready." Legislator Ungermann asked if they thought about a sewer to go with the waterline. Mr. Wood said no because it is expensive. Director of Planning Kier Dirlam stated it would be a \$6.5 million project. Legislator Healy stated they can look at it again if there is a demand for the sewer. Legislator Ungermann believes they should keep it in the back of their mind.

Mr. Wood discussed the park and ride. He believes all of the hurdles are out of the way, and they are waiting for the Federal Government to approve it. Mr. Wood gave a brief history on the 25-year lease the County recently signed with the Allegany County Industrial Development Association (IDA). Allegany County received a Federal grant for \$835,000 for a parking lot they did not own. The IDA owns the two buildings and the parking lot. So, they came up with a lease agreement where the County and Federal Government are assured that they will have use of that parking lot.

Mr. Wood said he is meeting one-on-one with the Legislators to keep them up-to-date on what he is working on. Finally, on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, the Economic Development Team is going to meet and review the three strategies and nine objectives. On April 28, 2016, the document will go to the Full Board to be adopted as a resolution. He added it will go to the Planning and Economic Development Committee before it goes to the Full Board.

Legislator Healy stated last week he went to Buffalo with Commissioner Rick Hollis for a State political meeting, and they stayed at the Marriott Harbor Center. There was a plaque on the wall naming the developer, and it was an original Allegany County developer. He said it was nice to see a local name on a new facility.

Office of Planning

Monthly Report

Director of Planning Kier Dirlam pre-filed his monthly report. Mr. Dirlam stated he went to the sessions at the IncubatorWorks regarding the new program 76 West Clean Energy Business Competition. He noted any group or company can apply as long as it was a clean energy related project. First prize is \$1 million, second prize is \$500,000, and there are a couple of prizes for \$250,000. They have to relocate to an incubator across the Southern Tier between Binghamton and Fredonia. In Allegany County, it would be the incubator in Alfred. Planning and Development Specialist Bryan Gamache attended the session in Elmira, and it had additional information for start-ups. It is a five-year program.

Mr. Dirlam stated Mr. Gamache completed the application for the land banks. There is no official response yet, but it seems to be moving forward. Mr. Dirlam also reported that a few years ago the materials they gave to new businesses and potential new residents weren't very attractive. So, they have been slowing working on new profile materials. He said three out of four of them are done, and he distributed them to the Committee. The three complete profiles are visiting Allegany County, Experience Allegany County, and Living in Allegany County. The last one is still being worked on, and it is doing business in Allegany County. Legislator Hopkins commented it is a great format, and is an effective way to pull it together. Legislator Healy asked if they are in video format. If not, he believes Alfred State College can assist with them because of the partnership the County has with the College. Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett stated they have a couple of video programs. Through the

travel shows, the latest video was for tourism. She noted a few years ago they did another video program. She stated if you go to Discover Allegany County website there are various sections including relocating, business and industry, tourism, and a welcome from Chairman Crandall. These videos can be emailed to people, and can be utilized.

Mr. Dirlam distributed information on the Friendship Empire Zone. He gave a brief history of the Friendship Empire Zone. It started in 1994 and went until June 2010. It was a benefit package to businesses that was quite lucrative, and it did not hurt the local town tax structure. Every year, the Former Friendship Empire Zone Director Wendall Brown comes back and tracks down the remaining Empire Zone companies. They have to file a business annual report (BAR). In 2003, there were 157 businesses in the program. Currently it has decreased to 48 businesses in 2014. Since 2010, the existing businesses were grandfathered and new businesses couldn't be added. The businesses are allowed benefits for ten years, and then they time out. Every year, they will lose businesses in the Empire Zone. Mr. Dirlam noted the capital investment in 2014 was \$13.8 million of investment in those businesses. He also said there are 1,769 total employees still working for companies in the Friendship Empire Zone Program. Legislator Healy commented it was a successful program. Mr. Dirlam said they keep trying to replace the Friendship Empire Zone with a different program, but they have not been as effective. He said there has been two to three programs since the Empire Zone Program ended such as Start Up New York and the Excelsior Tax Credit Program. However, everyone understood how to get the money from the Empire Zone Program, and it did not hurt the taxpayers. Mr. Dirlam thanked Mr. Brown for coming in and dealing with the companies.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett pre-filed her monthly report. She reported the scenic drive and historic brochures have been updated. The regional travel app Tour Blend will have a soft launch in April. She will be working with two other counties on how to approach the marketing effort. Ms. Hanchett believes they will change the billboard to have the Tour Blend app on it, and it is in the travel guide. Ms. Hanchett reported they finished the regional travel show a few weeks ago. She attended several shows including the Pittsburgh Travel Show, Erie Sport and Travel Show, and the Western New York Travel Show. She noted she has mixed feelings about the Pittsburgh Travel Show. She spoke with the I Love New York booth, and they do a car show instead of the travel show. Ms. Hanchett stated as a region they may switch because the Pittsburgh Travel Show may not be a good fit anymore. Ms. Hanchett stated she has about a dozen tickets left for the annual dinner on April 1, 2016.

Finally, Ms. Hanchett talked about the team effort to work with Alfred State Vice President of Economic Development Craig Clark to collect different types of data. She is collecting information on events including the number of out of town attendees, and business and industry information. Legislator Hopkins asked if they are receiving information from the Kerr Pegula Athletic Complex. Ms. Hanchett said she is getting information from them. Development Team Coordinator Jack Wood noted how important it is to gather this information especially because of the hotel feasibility study. This information can be sent to HVS, and they can update the study. There was much discussion about where visitors currently stay including college visitors and those on business trips. Ms. Hanchett also noted how the information will help them change the way they market themselves.

Employment & Training

Monthly Report

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch pre-filed her monthly report. She reported many businesses keep an application on file, and they were the only place where someone could pick up a Saputo Application. Now, Saputo is going to online only applications.

Legislator Healy asked about the nine veterans they served, and whether they received unemployment. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated she couldn't say, and asked if she should track that information. Legislator Healy thought it may be interesting information. She added some are employed, and may be underemployed looking for additional work or other work. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated if they have been recently discharged, they help them with job applications, referrals, leads, and interviewing skills. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated the Department of Labor had an extensive program for veterans. However, veterans were not interested in the program. Now, there aren't any real requirements for Veterans. She noted Veterans receive priority of service. Legislator Healy asked if they do referrals to other veteran services. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch replied yes.

Legislator Hopkins asked about the Summer Youth Employment Funding (SYEP), since they have not received funding information yet. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated they anticipate it will be slightly higher this year because of the increase in minimum wage. She believes they can serve 60 people in the SYEP. She noted it is a really great work experience. Legislator Graves asked if the numbers on the report reflect Dresser Rand layoffs. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch said the unemployment rate includes January's information.

February data will be available next week or the week after. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch reported in the Safety Net Employment Assessment Class, they had a cost avoidance of \$72,000 in two months. It does not include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid costs that were avoided. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated they are also doing the SNAP orientation because of the new rules. They have had one customer attend. She noted they have more orientations scheduled for the rest of the month and believes five customers will be attending.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch stated she has been doing extensive data collection. She is trying to decide what is useful, and what will go on the website. She noted it has been an interdisciplinary approach to looking at the current website. Finally, Ms. Sobeck-Lynch announced the Wellsville Chamber after Hours is tonight at the Duke Tea House, and is being hosted jointly with Snow Hill Landscaping from Alfred, New York.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried

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