

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

April 20, 2016

NOT APPROVED

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

Others Present: H. Budinger, S. Burt, C. Clark, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, B. Gamache, K. Graves, L. Gridley, G. Hanchett, K. Hooker, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, R. Sobeck-Lynch, N. Ungermann, J. Wood

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*; C. Dutton, *Cuba Patriot*

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of February 17, 2016.

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of March 16, 2016.

Economic Development

Monthly Report

Economic Developer Craig Clark submitted his monthly report digitally and discussed highlights of the report.

Mr. Clark updated the committee on the bio-refinery project (BDCC) stating Senator Young did not get the line item funding in the state budget. SUNY received no capital funding this year, and it appears the BDCC was not funded due to lack of SUNY funding. We will start to push the BDCC project purely as an "economic development" project. The US Forest Service is also working with us to achieve federal funding.

Mr. Clark reported that the Incubator Works that includes incubators in Alfred and Corning are changing to more of an Economic Development mission. Zylon which was bought by Belvac (from Virginia) is officially one of the first to move out of the incubator and is relocating to Sugar Hill with a \$2 million investment at the site. Chairman Root asked if they would be eligible as a Start-Up New York project, and Mr. Clark confirmed "Yes," and that an application is being processed this week. Legislator Healy asked about the number of people they would employ, and Mr. Clark stated there would be five to seven to start, and they have hired locally.

Mr. Clark briefly spoke regarding the Mission & Vision Statements and 9 Elements that were tweaked at the Houghton meeting last week. He felt the statements were well received and moving forward and mentioned that the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex generates approximately 35,000 visitors a year.

Mr. Clark attended the IEDC conference in Arlington, Virginia, and connected with USDA on Bio-refinery Development and Commercialization Center (BDCC) project. He also connected with Athens County in Ohio, who has successfully attracted alumni from Ohio University back to Athens County, a rural county very much like Allegany County. Allegany County needs to try a similar approach with our three colleges to get our alumni to return to the area for business start-up.

Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report

Economic Development Consultant Jack Wood pre-filed his report, but sent a memo last night to Legislators with a revised report. Legislator LaForge asked if Mr. Wood's report today would involve an Executive Session to which he responded, "no."

Mr. Wood explained he sent a letter (included in packet) to the P&ED Committee on behalf of the Allegany County Business, Education and Government Economic Development Steering Committee regarding "Sponsorship for the Attached Allegany County Vision, Mission, Strategies and Objectives Document." The committee approved the document and is sponsoring a resolution for adoption at the April 25, 2016, Board of Legislature meeting (the final document is attached). He explained the Steering Committee has met since last summer to present this formal final version. The role of the group is not to approve, but sponsor. They will present any future recommendations to the P&ED Committee for adoption and approval by the full Legislative Board. Chairman Root stated that there were only two major changes to the Mission, Strategies, and Objectives report:

1. An additional bullet was added to the Vision Statement: "Demonstrating an uncompromising commitment to the conservation of our resources through the proactive behavior of our residents, businesses, local government, and academic leaders;" Chairman Root addressed Legislator Ungermann stating this bullet would hopefully take care of any concern he had.
2. Re-wrote Strategy 1, Objective 2 – Lifestyle Brand and removed the word "values."

Mr. Wood stated the future of the Steering Committee and the role it plays will be to provide support and synergy marketing the three major sectors: Business, Education, and Government. Meetings will now be held quarterly, and he will continue facilitating these meetings until we have a new structure in place. The new structure will be organized to be equally represented by senior leaders from government, business, and education here in the County. He envisions the group ultimately becoming a 501 (c3) non-profit organization enabling them to significantly ramp up their sponsorship of and financial support to the County's Vision, Mission, Strategies, and Objectives implementation efforts - led by Alfred State College (Craig Clark). A sub-committee has been assembled to begin work on the structuring approach.

Chairman Root entertained a motion to adopt the "Allegany County Vision, Mission, Strategies, and Objectives" document as presented and forward to the full Legislative Board. A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried. **Prepare Resolution.**

IOC Services - Mr. Wood reported on his contract renewal and his new role as Economic Development Consultant. He discussed the HVS contract agreement regarding marketing the truck stop location. Mr. Wood explained his goal for a "one voice" marketing initiative. His role will be to schedule meetings and serve as liaison between developers.

Park-N-Ride – This is a federal grant to construct a new 82- lined space parking facility at the Crossroads Center, including: handicap access; a circular drive; LED lighting, and bus shelters for the Allegany County Transit System. This project is in full green status. The Fed DOT is currently turning over funding to NYSDOT to manage the remaining aspects of the project – including final design, bidding, and construction. We anticipate completion of the new parking lot in late summer or early fall.

I-86/Rte. 19 Interstate Development – HVS has been contracted by the IDA to serve as our consultant for identifying, selecting, and overseeing the development of the entire 30-acre site. Numerous developers have already been identified and two major hotel developers are

currently working with HVS and the IDA to build out a 30-acre site design that includes, but is not necessarily limited to, fast food, convenience food, gas/diesel service, hospitality and retail. We are having an onsite visit from a prominently national branded fast food corporation in the next few days and anticipate that they will soon officially declare the I-86 interchange as an approved location for their brand. Mr. Wood stated the IDA Board will not sign off on development until it has been presented to the full Legislative Board.

Branding – we are working with HVS to quickly place a “loose” brand on the I-86 interchange positioning it as the “gateway” to Allegany County’s education and economic development commerce activities. The hotel is being marketed this way right now as the hospitality “epicenter” for commerce among all of Allegany County’s colleges, university, and local businesses. The business potential from the three major educational institutions (especially the KPAC Athletic Center - Houghton) has really excited the last two major hotel developers - and, we anticipate that the fast food industry will respond very positively as well. When Craig Clark and his implementation team complete the “Why Allegany County” branding objective, the I-86 Interchange will likely emerge as a significant component of the overall county-wide brand. Gretchen Hanchett and her team gathered statistical data for the 30-acre site and has shared with developers. This data has helped produce greater interest to the site, and HVS will now review data to determine the capacity of the site.

Waterline Update - the project continues to move ever so slowly forward. Our goal is to have the site in “shovel ready” status later this year. The main issues now include, but are not limited to: (1) agreement between the town of Friendship and the IDA on the location and use of a reservoir(s) or water towers(s) - this is expected to be resolved in the next 60 days; (2) official approval from Rural Development and the town of Friendship to run Phase I of the waterline beyond Saputo Industries; and, (3) IDA approval to run Phase II of the waterline on to the Belvidere corner. The waterline development outlook is very positive – just a difficult process! Mr. Wood stated it will probably be the summer of 2017 before water is in place.

Crossroads/OFA-Veterans Buildings – Mr. Wood stated the Legislators have the outcome of his one-on-one Legislator meetings regarding Crossroads and the OFA/Veterans buildings. The IDA will not be revisiting the proposal until after the Park-N-Ride project is 100 percent completed. The IDA will be looking to divest their interest in those buildings at that time– either to the County or commercially. The Crossroads building needs a new roof, and three bids have been received.

R.S. Maher & Sons – Reported on their new Hume facility that is a Truck & Trailer Repair Towing and Recovery business. Their groundbreaking ceremony will be held on April 28 at their Hume facility from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Senator Catharine Young will be speaking and participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony. R.S. Maher is a new 2016 IDA PILOT company – a great addition to Allegany County. All Legislators are invited.

Office of Planning

Monthly Report

Director of Planning Kier Dirlam pre-filed his monthly report. Mr. Dirlam stated that most of the department efforts lately are regarding Economic Development. There are five individuals registered to attend the SelectUSA Investment Summit Conference in Washington, DC, in June so staff is busy preparing handouts and acquiring banners and promotional items for the booth.

Mr. Dirlam asked Legislators to mark their calendar for the Hazard Mitigation sessions. They will be held Tuesday evening (4/26/16) and Wednesday morning (4/27/16). It is not

necessary to attend both sessions, and he encouraged committee members to attend to help revise the 800-page Hazard Mitigation document. The sessions will be held at the VFW.

K. Dirlam and Bryan Gamache attended the GIS Conference in Rochester last week. This conference is new technical information for B. Gamache and information for K. Dirlam with regards to new changes and online data. K. Dirlam reported starting to post GIS information online but he recommended a need to start utilizing GIS more.

K. Dirlam and B. Gamache attended the NY Planning Federation Conference this past Sunday through Tuesday in Saratoga Springs. This was informational for B. Gamache and K. Dirlam participated in the legal sessions to help with assistance for the towns and villages.

The Southern Tier West Local Government Conference will be held in Houghton on May 11, 2016. Approximately 400 government officials/employees attended including municipal employees, town, and village officials.

Mr. Dirlam reported on the website analysis project. It is moving forward and will analyze the County, gateway, and tourism websites through Google Analytics to see how many hits the sites are receiving.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett pre-filed her monthly report.

G. Hanchett reported the office is busy pulling together materials for the SelectUSA Summit conference and collecting data for events, business and industry information.

G. Hanchett reported the Amish Trail is not dead. She met with an Amish gentleman who provided a listing of 20+ Amish businesses between the Angelica and Short Tract area. She is putting together a map for him to present to his Elders for approval and he will be the liaison between Ms. Hanchett and his Elders community.

G. Hanchett and S. Havey will be attending the NYS Tourism Conference in Clayton, NY, in May.

G. Hanchett reported that the Allegany County Welcome Fireball Run dinner will be held September 22, and the office is busy putting together "Bounty of the County" boxes for the Fireball Run registrants participating.

The Annual Greater Allegany County Chamber dinner held at Moonwinks was a great success with guests Thurman and Patti Thomas who received the Tourism Service Award. K. Dirlam received the Presidential Award for all his service and assistance to the Chamber; Great Lakes received the Large Business Award; Marshall Insurance received the Small Business Award; and C. Whitfield and B. Gamache received certificates in appreciation of their service and support to the Chamber.

New event rack cards are being distributed and cover events through mid-July. There was a Tourism presentation made April 7 at the Angelica Lions meeting and again, this evening, at Moonwinks for the Annual Youth Bureau Dinner. Chairman Root and G. Hanchett will be doing the presentation for the Youth dinner.

The Legislative Breakfast will be coming up soon, and Congressman Reed will be attending.

Employment & Training

Monthly Report

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch pre-filed her monthly report. Ms. Lynch reported that she is now including DSS figures as part of her report, as they provide half of her funding budget.

R. Lynch reported they are currently working on a grant with Child Support Services. She commented that the WIOA Youth Program thought they would serve 10 clients but only ended up with one. One has begun paid work experience and earned his HSED and one completed CNA training and is employed.

Veterans – Noted that the same four veterans are utilizing their service for assistance with a job search; however, they are just signing up and not interacting with counselors. Counselors will now interact with the vets as they arrive.

Summer Youth Program is starting up and staff is busy find worksites for youth.

R. Lynch distributed a new report showing Jobs Programs Employments for 2015 in comparison to 2014 with types of business listed and highest average wages. The report also includes Allegany County Top Employers with job titles for the Jobs Program.

R. Lynch requested a resolution to fill a full-time Summer Youth Employment & Training Counselor position at a rate of \$12/hour. The position is 100 percent funded by the TANF allocation and position will not be filled if funding is not received. A motion was entertained by Chairman Root to fill the position now pending the funding being available in May. Motioned by Legislator Healy; seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Old Business – None to report.

New Business – None to report.

Good of the Order – Legislative Chairman Crandall took the opportunity to advertise the Senior Foundation Gala on May 21, 2016. Tickets are \$15 each or 4 for \$50. Please see Reita Sobeck-Lynch, Dave Pullen, or Curt Crandall to purchase.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Jessup, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathleen Whitfield, Confidential Secretary to the Director of Planning
Acting Recording Secretary