

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

July 20, 2016
NOT APPROVED

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

Committee Members Excused: D. Pullen, D. Healy

Others Present: T. Boyde, J. Budinger, S. Burt, C. Clark, D. Decker, S. Decker, M. Denhoff, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, G. Hanchett, K. Hollis (Assemblyman Giglio Rep.), R. Hollis, J. Kelley, T. Miner, B. Rigby-Riehle, R. Sobeck-Lynch,

Media Present: Bob Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

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 Jessup, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of June 15, 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 recent SELECT USA Conference, in Washington, DC which is an international trade show. He attended with the economic development team of Kier Dirlam, Jack Wood, Legislator Root and Gretchen Hanchett. Our booth was very well developed with new handbills and marketing materials. Other counties and states were impressed with the Allegany County dress shirts our group wore, which made them stand out and be remembered. He is still receiving E-mails and connecting with potential businesses that are interested in relocating to the USA. We have over 100 different contacts on our business list. The Allegany County, New York booth was located near the New York State booth and Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County. The team networked and gathered literature from other booths to compare and see what we need to update for improvement next year. Mr. Clark mentioned he was asked repetitively about incubator space, cost associated and style of living. Legislative Chairman Crandall asked if the conference was heavily populated from the East Coast, even though a national conference. Mr. Clark replied it was pretty equally represented with all states and it's important for our county to connect with the right people. He spoke with the International Economic Development Corporation groups and the IEDC President. The next step is to use what we learned, follow up with connections and attend a SELECT USA trade show overseas.

Mr. Clark notes we are starting to respond to notices from "Invest Buffalo Niagara" regarding property and leads for companies that want to reside in Western NY.

Mr. Clark will be attending the Site Selectors Guild Fall Forum in Arkansas in October with the goal of having a site selector on Allegany County in late fall or early spring.

Leadership Allegany has agreed to develop a young professional program based on the Athens Ohio model. Next phase will be developing an emerging and welcome back program to keep local college graduates in the County and attract alumni back to Allegany County. This will be developed working with the three Allegany County colleges.

Reported on Sugar Hill Development and it is anticipated that Belvac will be having a grand opening soon. They anticipate 4-5 employees and will be marketing a ceramic dye product affiliated with aluminum beer bottles.

The Belvidere waterline project is currently waiting for an engineering report from Friendship regarding their quantity of water available.

Legislator Fanton asked about Insyte Consulting and Mr. Clark reported the event is being rescheduled for late July after the June 15th event was cancelled due to illness. It is for local manufacturing companies to discuss ways to improve manufacturing processes to assist in retention and expansion of local manufacturers through the manufacturing council.

Legislator Decker asked about the Seneca Nation Tracewell Building. Mr. Clark reported that he and Jack Wood met with the Seneca Nation leaders and discussed how we can partner on economic development including filling the Tracewell building with a manufacturer.

Office of Planning

Monthly Report

Director of Planning Kier Dirlam pre-filed his monthly report and discussed highlights of the report.

MOE – Funds Transfer

Mr. Dirlam requested approval to transfer funds in the amount of \$950.00 from .4 to the .2 Equipment line to purchase an air-conditioner for Planning staff and a replacement laser printer that has aged out and is no longer functional. Chairman Root entertained a motion to approve the transfer. A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried 4-0 w/2 absent (Pullen and Healy). **PREPARE RESOLUTION**

Mr. Dirlam introduced new Planning & Development Specialist, Michelle Denhoff, who started 6/27/16, replacing Bryan Gamache. Mr. Gamache resigned effective 7/1/16, to become the Executive Director of the United Way. Ms. Denhoff brings a variety of skills to the Planning Department including environmental, GIS and familiarity in working with some of our largest businesses. She has quickly stepped up to complete some unfinished projects.

Mr. Dirlam reported that the Land Bank has been approved for a \$150,000 startup grant. The Land Bank is fully functioning now and the committee will be contracting with Bryan Gamache to complete putting together the application to the Community Development Block Grant and a follow up to the AG's office for additional funding. The grant application is due 8/22/16. Mr. Dirlam suggested that if the committee needs him to work on that, it would need approval before moving forward. Legislator LaForge reported the Land Bank Committee is currently negotiating with Mr. Gamache on contract issues and will be meeting with Tom Miner, County Attorney.

Mr. Dirlam reported on the Broadband project stating the contract officially ends in August and the project is only half completed. He drafted a letter to the Albany office requesting a project extension and has received word that Albany approved extending the project another year and we will need to sign off on the new agreement when received. The ConnectNY Project is tied to the work being done by the Sheriff's Department and we are awaiting the tower construction of the Angelica and Alma towers. Once completed, CONXX can install our equipment which will then bring a substantial part of the network on-line. Currently, the tower construction is expected to take about 90 days. It is anticipated the entire system will be on-line fully before year-end.

The Allegany County Comp Plan is approaching its mandated "update" schedule of 2017. It is anticipated that Cornell Cooperative Extension, GACCC, Southern Tier West and Employment & Training agencies will be working together on Chapter 4 of the Comp Plan and it

is hopeful that more county departments and agencies will provide additional input for their sections in the plan. The Planning Department will be contacting these agencies.

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Report

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

Ms. Hanchett reported on the Allegany County Fair activity going on this week and the Chamber working in conjunction with Alfred State College and a local tin smith who will be putting on shows at the Allegany County Tourism booth on Friday and Saturday at Noon, 2PM, 4PM, and 6PM.

Ms. Hanchett attended the Select USA Conference for a second year and commented it was much better this year having an Allegany County booth. Many people were interested in how close Allegany County is to an International Airport and didn't find our distance as a negative factor.

Ms. Hanchett attended the Governor's Catskill Challenge on July 7th. The group met at the Woodstock location and white water rafted with the Governor, coming in at 3rd place. There is discussion with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties about doing a challenge in our region which would be a good project moving forward and allows the region the possibility of receiving more funding.

Ms. Hanchett reported she is still looking into an Eagle cam and the possibility of the Matching Funds grant being a source of funding. The cost would be around \$8,000-\$10,000. She has contacted Equatek, who maintains the Tourism website, and they will re-do the site to accept wildlife pictures. Legislator Decker mentioned there is currently a bald eagle nesting on Cuba Lake and a beaver dam near Route 305. A "Watchful Wildlife Program" is a future goal. Chairman Root asked if the eagle cam needed to be a "live stream" on the website, as there are so many regulations regarding eagles and their habitat. Showing the eagles on the website would be a large draw for people to visit Allegany County.

The Travel Writer and family visited our region on 7/13/16 and Ms. Hanchett escorted them on tours at Moss Lake, Rushford Lake and Pollywogg Holler.

The Manufacturing Council will be hosting the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on 8/12/16 to raise money for manufacturing scholarships.

Employment & Training

Monthly Report

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch pre-filed her monthly report and discussed highlights.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch reported that the Employment & Training Office is now known as an "American Job Center" and has a new logo for their agency through WIOA.

E&T continues to work with DSS with 688 services provided for the following programs: Family Assistance, Safety Net Family, Safety Net, SNAP and Non-Custodial Parent.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch met with Dresser on July 8th regarding the 25 individuals who were laid off and noted the layoffs were due partly to foreign aid.

The Summer Youth Program has started and employs 54 youth at 53 sites.

MOE – Grant Funds

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch requested a resolution to increase the 2016 budget appropriations for the acceptance of Employment & Trainings share of \$28,235 in the Noncustodial Parent (NCP) Grant. The remaining amount is the DSS share of the grant. Final figures will be reported at next month's meeting after the program ends in July. A motion was made by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried 4-0 w/2 absent (Pullen and Healy). **REFER TO WAYS & MEANS AND REPARE RESOLUTION**

Legislator Decker questioned the ratio between the E&T front door traffic of 604 and employment of only 6 people. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch responded that with the new WIOA regulations they have to keep track of all people who come through the front door stating that the same person could come through 10 different times for services; it doesn't mean that there were 604 different individuals.

Announced Business After-Hours is this evening from 5-7 PM at Trend Addictions.

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

Chairman Root entertained a motion to re-appoint Jerry Scott to a three-year term effective 8/28/16 and expiring on 8/27/19. A motion was made by Legislator Jessup; seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried. **PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

Industrial Development Agency

Monthly Report – No report as Jack Wood, Chairman/CEO was away on vacation.

Old Business – None to report.

New Business – Gretchen Hanchett thanked the Committee and the Department of Public Works for the new blacktop entrance driveway at the Crossroads facility and noted how appreciative the tenants, employees and visitors are.

Good of the Order – None to report.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Jessup, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

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