

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
October 19, 2016
Not Approved

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

Others Present: T. Boyde, H.B. Budinger, P. Curran, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, K. Graves, G. Hanchett, K. Hollis, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, C. Knapp, R. Lynch, T. Miner, B. Riehle T. Ross, N. Ungermann, M. Washer

Media Present: Brian Quinn - *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, 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 Debra 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 for September 21, 2016.

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency

Allegany County Industrial Development Agency Executive Director Craig Clark submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Dr. Clark stated the GE Lufkin facility maintaining a business remains top priority, and they do have one potential buyer. Legislator Graves questioned if they have come across any obstacles that is preventing them from signing a contract. Dr. Clark stated there are no obstacles known at this time, it just takes time working with GE, but he will remain closely involved and forthcoming with the committee regarding any issues that may arise. Dr. Clark stated they are hoping to receive a true letter of intent in the three to four weeks from their hotel developer. Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Debra Root asked for an update of the waterline project. Dr. Clark stated he recently spoke with the engineer, and they are in the process of putting in a valve so they can monitor their tank for the amount of water lost. Dr. Clark believes there will be plenty of water in the system; it's whether or not they can use it, and they should know in the next three weeks what the result is.

Planning

Planning Director H. Kier Dirlam submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Dirlam stated they have been working with MRB on the Comprehensive School Plans with a target date of December 2016 for final drafts. Mr. Dirlam is hopeful the entire project will be completed in March 2017. Mr. Dirlam stated the County Comprehensive Plan update is in process, and there are three public forums for public input scheduled for November 10, November 14, and November 15. Mr. Dirlam stated the tower construction for the Broadband Project is progressing in a positive manner and the Rushford and Grove towers up. Mr. Dirlam stated Bolivar has been delivered, Alma has site work underway, and they are waiting on legal agreements from Whitesville and Alfred. Mr. Dirlam stated CONXX is currently in the County and have begun installing the equipment. Mr. Dirlam updated the committee on

the Strategies/Tactics document and stated they have taken this to the next level by working through how to accomplish each goal and objective listed under the strategies and tactics.

Tourism

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hanchett stated she recently attended the 2016 Governor Tourism Summit. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul made the announcement that Governor Andrew Cuomo is increasing \$55 million in funding dedicated to promoting New York's world-class attractions, drawing more visitors, creating jobs, and further growing the industry throughout the Empire State. Ms. Hanchett stated this funding will be adding Welcome Centers that will house I Love NY stores to each of the regions, and she will try her hardest to have a welcome center in Allegany County. Ms. Hanchett stated they have put a trail cam at Trout Run and continue to monitor the footage, and work with the website developers on uploading live videos to the website. Ms. Hanchett wanted the committee to know that she has sent an editorial to the paper announcing how proud she is of how well the community came together during the Fireball Run. Ms. Hanchett announced that Tough Mudder will not be coming back to Allegany County and while she is disappointed, she feels it is okay that it is moving on because it did what it needed to do for our area and hopes to have another event take its place soon.

2017 Tourism Services Contract

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett requested a resolution approving the contractual agreement with the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce for an annual amount of \$80,000 for the budget year January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017. The request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Employment and Training

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Mrs. Lynch stated so far this year the Employment Assessment Class has saved the County almost \$300,000 which is also very good for the Safety Net population. Legislator Pullen questioned why out of 68 job referrals to customers, only one was hired. Mrs. Lynch stated those are the numbers that are available for them to report on. Legislator Pullen questioned if the people weren't qualified for the job openings. Mrs. Lynch stated they don't refer anyone who doesn't have the specific requirements to do that job and will dig into the numbers more for next month's report. Legislator Healy questioned how many are receiving public assistance. Mrs. Lynch was not sure but stated if they are receiving public assistance and are offered a job, they cannot turn down the job as they could lose their assistance. Legislator Healy questioned what kind of outreach they are doing for our Veterans. Mrs. Lynch stated they work with Veterans Agency Director Mike Hennessy and also have information at the VA clinic on Riverside Drive in Wellsville, New York.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Washer, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators