

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
November 16, 2016
Not Approved

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

Others Present: T. Boyde, B. Budinger, S. Burt, C. Clark, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, K. Graves, G. Hanchett, K. Hollis, C. Knapp, R. Lynch, T. Miner, B. Riehle T. Ross, 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 October 19, 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 they recently had a meeting regarding the GE Lufkin facility, and they continue to have two to three very serious companies looking at the building. Dr. Clark stated Site Selectors will be arriving on Monday November 21, 2016, and will be here for two days to look at the County and see what can be done to improve our vision to bring new businesses to the area. Legislator Healy questioned the progress of Friendship waterline. Dr. Clark stated he recently met with the town, and they are installing a valve to monitor how much water they do or do not lose. Dr. Clark went on to say progress is happening, just slower than he would like. Legislator Healy asked for an update on the Crossroads development. Dr. Clark stated he had a phone conference with a developer on Monday, with another scheduled for next week. Dr. Clark said developers in Rochester and Syracuse are very interested, and Syracuse is currently getting estimates on construction. Legislator Healy asked if they are still pursuing ownership of the Lufkin building. Dr. Clark stated yes they are; however, they have not received a full offer yet. They are working with GE and will look at all aspects to ensure it will benefit us, and he is positive it will. Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Deb Root asked if he has a date in mind for receiving a letter of intent form a hotel developer. Dr. Clark stated he is hoping to have one by end of the year.

Planning

Planning Director H. Kier Dirlam submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Dirlam stated the Wellsville Comprehensive Plan draft is almost complete. Counties have held public forums; however, the attendance was unfortunately very low. Mr. Dirlam passed out surveys regarding the Comprehensive Plan, and requested the Legislators as well as the public attendees assist with completing them. Mr. Dirlam stated he is hopeful to have the Comprehensive Plan done, and to the Legislators for approval next spring. Mr. Dirlam stated they have a training session set for November 16, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. regarding how you can

and cannot regulate signs in your community. Mr. Dirlam stated they sent out 200 invitations and 23 will be in attendance.

Tourism

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Mrs. Hanchett stated they have found a new cover for the travel guide which will feature canoeing and hiking. Mrs. Hanchett stated they continue to work on the Watchful Wildlife Program, and are collecting trail cam videos from outside sources to keep the program moving forward. Mrs. Hanchett stated she received the Tourism report and Allegany County is up .9 percent in spending, and while it's not quite 1 percent, we are heading in the right direction compared to other Counties that are down. Mrs. Hanchett announced the Three Chamber Christmas Reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at the Wellsville Country Club.

Employment and Training

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Mrs. Lynch stated in the month of October they had six customers become employed, all who have been receiving benefits from the Department of Social Services. Legislator Hopkins asked what types of jobs they were. Mrs. Lynch stated three were full-time and three were part-time, but none paid more than \$10/hour. Mrs. Lynch passed out to the Legislators a list of all jobs that are currently open, but noted some of these could be old as companies don't always update the jobs when they become filled. Planning & Economic Development Committee Chair Deb Root asked if they clean up those jobs on the list that have already been filled. Mrs. Lynch stated every six months they will go through and update the list as best they can with jobs that are still open and remove the jobs that aren't. Legislator Pullen stated recently we have heard about people who have dropped out of the employment market; they aren't employed, but would like to be and are discouraged over it. Legislator Pullen asked what our market is like. Are they hopeful, discouraged, or participating because they have to. Mrs. Lynch stated the really eager job seekers come to them for leads and to get started. They help them make connections so they can then go out on their own with the ability to contact them if they need additional resources. Mrs. Lynch went on to say half of their customers are from the Department of Social Services and these individuals have not worked before and have no skill set or desire; therefore, it can be very difficult to motivate them. Legislator Pullen asked if they get people who come in and seem sincerely interested in finding work, but are frustrated because they aren't finding a job available in the area. Mrs. Lynch stated yes they do have those scenarios, but with most of them, they find the customers actually need help with their interview skills and getting a better idea of their skill set, and what kind of job they would fit best in. Legislator Graves questioned if there is any effort to draw out the people who have just been given up on finding work. Mrs. Lynch stated she isn't sure of any outreach programs, but if these individuals also aren't looking to receive public assistance, how do you ever really know where they are or how to draw them out.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m. following a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried.

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