

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
BELDEN
TESSIER
CHAMPAGNE
MERLINO
TAYLOR

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR STEC

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT
PETER WOHL, VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN WHEATLEY, PROJECT DIRECTOR, QUEENSBURY
INDUSTRIAL PARK
REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT:
PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR
WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE &
FISCAL SERVICES
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR STRAINER
SUPERVISOR GOODSPEED
SUPERVISOR THOMAS
THOMAS RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
CAMERON TESSIER, TOWN OF LAKE GEORGE
DEBRA L. SCHREIBER, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Sokol called the Planning & Community Development Committee meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Champagne, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2008 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Leonard Fosbrook, President, Economic Development Corporation (EDC), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Fosbrook began the meeting by updating the members of the Committee on the status of the Gore Mountain/Ski Bowl project. He explained their Department had requested a feasibility study be performed to determine whether an interconnect could be constructed linking the North Creek Ski Bowl to Gore Mountain. He noted the feasibility study, which their Department funded, coupled with the Economic Development plan document, formed the basis of this project becoming reality. Mr. Fosbrook further stated that if the New York State (NYS) Comptroller's Office determined

this project were successful, it would have a \$44 million annual economic impact. Upon the completion of the Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis and feasibility study, Mr. Fosbrook stated their Department scheduled a meeting with the Town of Johnsbury, EDC, New York State and ORDA (Olympic Regional Development Authority) to execute the necessary agreements as they related to the operation and improvements of Gore Mountain and the North Creek Ski Bowl in bringing the interconnect to fruition. He explained the interconnect enabled a skier to ski down Gore Mountain into the Village of North Creek, thereby attracting more individuals to the Village Center. In an effort to grow the economy in the Village of North Creek, as well as Warren County, and to make Gore Mountain a destination ski area, he noted, a private developer had proposed constructing housing units on the 300 acres of land he recently purchased.

Prior to former NYS Governor Pataki leaving office, Mr. Fosbrook indicated there were a couple meetings scheduled with the NYS DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation), NYS DOT (Department of Transportation) and other interested parties, whereby he increased the ORDA budget by \$9 million to develop the Burnt Ridge section of Gore Mountain and Senator Betty Little obtained \$5 million for the infrastructure into the Ski Bowl.

Mr. Fosbrook stated they were currently awaiting approvals for the interconnect and private developer/front street development projects to construct a \$200,000,000 ski in/ski out village at the base of the North Creek Ski Bowl. He said these two projects were scheduled for public hearing: the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on March 4, 2008 at the Gore Mountain Ski Area, and the North Creek Ski Bowl Village Adirondack Park Agency (APA) application on March 12, 2008 at the Tannery Pond Center. Mr. Fosbrook stated construction could commence as soon as this summer on the Ski Bowl/Village side of this project if the application and Supplemental EIS were approved. He stated the Supplemental EIS must be approved prior to installing the interconnecting lift, which they anticipated to be sometime in 2009. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Fosbrook replied the public hearings were open to the general public.

Once the interconnect project was completed, Mr. Fosbrook said Gore Mountain would employ an additional fifty people and have an annual payroll expense of approximately \$425,000 while the housing development would employ approximately 300 people and have a payroll of \$5 million. He further advised that the APA had "accepted" the application as complete and once it was approved, the project would move forward. Mr. Fosbrook estimated an \$8.5 million increase in spending by skiers and part-time residents, ultimately yielding an additional \$256,000 in sales tax revenue. He indicated the annual Town of Johnsbury School tax would have a net increase of \$2.34 million; an additional \$362,000 in revenue would be generated to the Town of Johnsbury; special taxes (fire district and emergency medical services) would increase to \$104,000; and the County would receive approximately \$443,000 in annual revenue. While these figures reflected the net outcome of this economic development project, he said, he anticipated Essex and Hamilton Counties to have a greater regional impact, and those two counties were not included in these figures. In response to a query by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Fosbrook answered there would be 294 lodging rooms consisting of small motels and

condominiums. He explained that EDC either applied for or assisted in many grant applications including a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) grant in the amount of \$750,000, as well as a grant the Town of Johnsbury received totaling approximately \$516,000. He said these monies were expended for infrastructure on the North Creek Ski Bowl project, which was re-opened this year for the first time since 1960.

Mr. Geraghty asked whether a traffic study had been performed from Exit 23 of Interstate 87 through the Town of Warrensburg and Mr. Fosbrook replied he assumed traffic studies were performed as part of the EIS; however, he said, he could not specify what mitigating circumstances were addressed. When he reviewed the EIS, he said, he recalled a concern about a right-hand turn lane onto Peaceful Valley Road as it exited onto Route 28. Mr. Monroe stated it was his recollection that the environmental groups voiced their objections to the interconnect after the APA and DEC had approved the EIS. Mr. Fosbrook said he found no new information in the Supplemental EIS and it was only an attempt by the environmental groups to delay or change the project. Mr. Monroe related that the interconnect project would move forward should they not receive approval of the Front Street project. Mr. Fosbrook said there were two separate issues, the interconnect and Front Street projects; however, he stated, from an economic standpoint, they needed the Front Street approvals to bring a greater return on the investments by Warren County and EDC.

Mr. Goodspeed articulated that prior to the private developer becoming involved with the project, it was anticipated that the interconnect would be installed on both County and NYS land near a chairlift that was not centrally located. When the private developer emerged, he said, a quad chairlift replaced the existing but non-functional cable T-bar, making better use of the land. Mr. Goodspeed noted the first EIS approved the plans and the original location of the chairlift; however, the developer recommended conveying all the land under the chairlift and all of the ski trails to the Town of Johnsbury. Thereafter, he said, the Town of Johnsbury entered into a contract with ORDA to groom, maintain and snow blow the ski lifts and lift line trails. At this time, Mr. Goodspeed stated, the environmental groups became concerned with the reconfiguration of the ski lift and the proposed housing development, thereby requesting a review of the entire project, which also had been done. If they received no major opposition at the two public hearings, Mr. Goodspeed said he anticipated construction to commence on the Front Street project by June 2009, while work had already begun on the interconnect. He reported the APA application for the Front Street project was completed on February 20, 2008 and they were currently in the three month waiting period in which a decision to either approve or disapprove the application would be made.

Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Fosbrook to clarify the "interconnect". Mr. Fosbrook referred him to the map attached to his agenda packet, noting the red lines represented proposed lifts; the blue lines designated proposed trails and the yellow lines delineated pre-existing trails. He explained the short red line depicted in the green area of the map represented a lift that was installed this year enabling skiers to access the pre-existing (yellow) trails. He said the large red line that ran southeast to the northwest up the mountain would be the Burnt Ridge lift, which would allow additional trails to flow down to the North Creek Ski Bowl. The final lift would flow across private land (brown area); however, he said, the developer dedicated that property for lifts and trails, thereby allowing them to utilize pre-

existing trails when the original Ski Bowl was opened. He commented the interconnect comprised of all these lifts and new trails. Over the past three to four years, Mr. Goodspeed added skiers were able to ski between the Gore proper and the Village of North Creek, and this year when they opened the little lift, he said, it became tremendously popular with night skiing and snow making. Upon the completion of the interconnect, he noted, a skier who skied to the "mouth" of the village could catch a shuttle along Main Street to take them back to Gore Mountain. Due to the significant increase in attendance over the winter break of 2008, Mr. Goodspeed indicated it became necessary to plow an old abandoned lot for additional parking. He expounded the ski area was exploding and with these proposed changes, he estimated Gore Mountain to be the seventh or eighth largest ski facility east of the Mississippi River. While skiers currently skied the interconnect, Mr. Goodspeed indicated that the Burnt Ridge lift would be ready for operation during the Winter of 2009 as the brush had been cleared, they had received their approvals and necessary funding, and the chairlift had been ordered. In addition, he said, the little lift had been installed.

In response to a query by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Goodspeed replied this year was the first time Gore Mountain offered night skiing and tubing at the North Creek Ski Bowl. During Christmas week, he reported, there were 440 people in the little park enjoying skiing and tubing. Mr. Sokol asked where the proposed hotels would be located and Mr. Goodspeed answered phase one of the construction would commence this summer and consist of fifteen to twenty building units, a tavern facility, restaurant and a bed and breakfast.

Mr. Fosbrook said he requested this meeting to apprise Committee members of the upcoming public hearings and to solicit County input by asking the Supervisors to attend those meetings. He said neither the County nor EDC were ever mentioned in those documents and he felt it was important to acknowledge their efforts. Mr. Fosbrook stated he forwarded correspondence to Peter Frank, NYSDEC, that addressed County and/or EDC involvement throughout this entire process, which ultimately strengthened the Supplemental EIS and other supporting documents by proving that this project had been a part of their Empire Zone Development Plan since 2001. While funding had been received from federal and state authorities, he indicated additional funding was provided by EDC through the County for these various studies. Mr. Fosbrook stated he would speak on behalf of both projects at the two public hearings and any documentation and letters of support he had received would be forwarded to the APA and NYSDEC. Mr. Goodspeed encouraged all Supervisors to write letters of support to Mr. Frank, as there had been opposition to the project, particularly the housing project. Mr. Champagne asked who would be hearing this EIS and Mr. Fosbrook responded NYSDEC. Mr. Goodspeed explained the interrelationship issues between the four or five stakeholders, in addition to all the engineering and environmental issues had been presented to the APA, thereby making the Front Street application complete. While he anticipated the environmental groups would attempt to further delay this project, he said, at the conclusion of this informational hearing for the APA, they would be notified within the next 90 days whether the project had been approved or further recommendations would be made. Mr. Goodspeed said it was worth noting Gore Mountain was the birthplace of the National Ski Patrol and offered the first cable ski lift in the country.

Mr. Fosbrook explained their Department saw this project as an opportunity to promote four season tourism, provide jobs and additional revenue within Warren County, and it had all the components of economic development. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Goodspeed said he recently met with the developer who apprised him of the interviews he had conducted and when he anticipated breaking ground. He further stated this project was an attempt to boost the County to a four season tourism destination that included the Upper Hudson River Scenic Railroad.

Privilege of the floor was extended to John Wheatley, Project Director, Queensbury Industrial Park (QIP), who referred the Committee to the EDC Targeted Promotion & Sales Plan for 2008. He indicated members of their Department would participate in two major industry attraction initiatives - NY Loves Technology, sponsored by the Center for Economic Growth, Inc., and NY Loves Bio, sponsored by NYS Economic Development Council (NYSEDC). He said they had representation at eight of the ten trade shows they targeted and would personally attend five of the shows.

Mr. Geraghty exited the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Mr. Wheatley apprised the Center for Economic Growth, Inc. and their Department focused on trade shows that involved the semi-conductor industry, nano technology, biotechnology and alternative energy. Due to the medical device cluster within Warren County, he said, they decided to concentrate their efforts on biotechnology and familiarize themselves with those individuals and entities who wished to capitalize on the assets in their region.

Mr. Wheatley briefly explained the various shows they would be attending as follows:

- PharmaMed Device in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from March 26 - March 28, 2008;
- OEM New England in Boston, Massachusetts from April 30 - May 1, 2008;
- Bio International in San Diego, California from June 17 - June 20, 2008;
- MD & M East in New York City from June 3 - June 5, 2008; and
- Semicon West in San Francisco, California from July 15 - July 17, 2008.

Peter Wohl, Vice President of EDC, apprised that each year the State Legislative Representative asked all not-for-profit governmental agencies to forward the appropriation requests they would like considered for the fiscal year and this year they submitted the following four requests:

- extension of Runway 1 at the Floyd D. Bennett Memorial Airport, a request of \$750,000;
- extension of a municipal waterline to the Chestertown Industrial Park, making the park fully functional, bring jobs to the park, and serve as an affordable housing site;
- a Warren County telecommunications study, a request of \$60,000; and
- a Glens Falls Civic Center capital improvement project.

Throughout the year, Mr. Wohl said they would be in contact with Congresswoman Gillibrand seeking the status of their requests and/or determining whether other funding options had become available. If the same procedure were followed for 2008 as in

previous years, he said, he anticipated being notified during the third or fourth quarter of this year with funding to be disbursed approximately three to four months thereafter.

Mr. Champagne asked for an update on the status of the Adirondack Regional Business Incubator (ARBI) and Mr. Wohl reported the program had sponsored some ongoing development series in management and sales. In addition, he said, the leadership course that was offered was filled to capacity and an internship program was recently launched with the assistance of six to eight colleges in the region, all of which provided revenue to the ARBI program.

Mr. Wohl noted the bid responses they received to renovate the building in downtown Glens Falls to house the ARBI program far exceeded the monies they allocated through a federal EDA (Economic Development Agency) grant. Subsequently, he said, they applied for a RESTORE New York grant from the State of New York only to discover those funds were awarded to recipients with projects of significant priority. Therefore, in order to complete the renovations on this building, Mr. Wohl indicated a meeting had been scheduled with all ARBI partners to discuss what options were available to ensure there was a continued commitment to the program and initiative. Mr. Fosbrook added the ARBI program was currently housed in the EDC offices. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Wohl commented there had been many conversations with the new President of Adirondack Community College (ACC) and it was his belief he had a good understanding of the role the College played in economic development.

The Economic Development Corporation portion of the Planning & Community Development Committee concluded at 11:05 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Patricia Tatich, Director of Planning & Community Development, who distributed copies of the agenda packet to members of the Committee; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes.*

Referring to the first item on the agenda, Ms. Tatich advised their Office had forwarded a third notice to those towns that had not responded to their original request for information relating to the Abbreviated Consolidated Plan.

With respect to the second item on the agenda, Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, advised the Committee he received a response from Mayor Robert Blais, Village of Lake George, asking the County to complete the Fatal Flaw Analysis to determine whether the proposed property was suitable for the Outdoor Drama Theater (ODT).

Continuing on with Item 3 on the agenda, Mr. Champagne indicated he had discussed with both the Community Action Agency and the Planning & Community Development Department the type of agreement required to accomplish the weatherization audit to better serve the homeowner. While this was no easy task, he said, he was hopeful after their scheduled meeting this week, the two agencies would commit to serve the best interests of the homeowner.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney, entered the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Ms. Tatich thanked Supervisor Champagne for facilitating the meeting with the Community Action Agency.

With respect to Item B (1), Mr. LaMothe requested to extend the contract with the Warren County Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service (MLS) in the amount of \$4,000, commencing January 1, 2008, and terminating upon 30 days notice, for membership access to the GIS database.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. Tessier approving the request as outlined above.

Mr. Sokol asked whether a resolution would be required if the information remained the same. Mr. Dusek replied the Board could adopt a resolution that allowed the contract to be renewed annually until terminated by the Board. Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, stated she would discuss with Mr. Dusek what resolutions could be automatically renewed or extended without Committee approval. Mr. Dusek clarified that a resolution could automatically be renewed if it contained verbiage acknowledging the Board had sanctioned the contract or resolution to continue.

After discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously approving the request to automatically renew the contract with the Warren County Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service as outlined above; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing on with Item B (2), Mr. LaMothe requested to extend the contract with Systems Development Group, Inc. (SDG), to provide and maintain the online software support utilized by MLS, commencing February 1, 2008 and terminating March 31, 2009, for a lump sum amount of \$3,600.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. Belden approving the request as outlined above.

Mr. LaMothe stated SDG, Inc. submitted a three year proposal; however, he noted, on page 5 of the agenda, it stated the agreement was effective February 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009. Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, commented that according to the information contained in the agenda, the County made a \$400 profit by providing this service. Mr. LaMothe responded they had solicited the Warren County Bar Association and other entities about subscribing to this software package in order to access the GIS.

After discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously approving the request to extend the contract with SDG, Inc. for three years for a lump sum amount of \$3,600; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

In response to a query by Mr. Monroe, Mr. LaMothe advised that while the Association of Realtors had access to this program, Warren County received \$90,000 in grant funds

to make this software available to the public and it was currently accessible on the County website.

Referring to Item B (3) on the agenda, Mr. LaMothe requested a contract with The Saratoga Associates, commencing March 1, 2008 and terminating October 1, 2008, for the purpose of having a Fatal Flaw Analysis performed relative to the ODT, for a lump sum amount of \$8,000 to be funded through a Quality Communities grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Champagne approving the request as outlined above.

Mr. Belden asked whether the Outdoor Drama Theater Corporation that was formed five or six years ago had been dissolved and Mr. LaMothe replied the Board of Directors of the ODT had been reconstituted with new members outside of Lake Luzerne that was comprised of Luisa Sherman, Pam Morin and Michael DuFault. Mr. Merlino commented there were proxies utilized to eliminate two people from the Board of Directors from Lake Luzerne and those individuals knew nothing about it. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Taylor, Mr. LaMothe confirmed the \$8,000 in grant funds had been approved. He further explained a "fatal flaw analysis" involved a full regulatory review of the property to determine the different methods by which the land could be used and whether there were any land use restrictions associated with the property. Due to certain grant restrictions placed upon this "park property", Mr. Dusek stated this parcel could only be utilized for specific purposes, and a determination had been made that the ODT was a permitted use of the property.

After discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing on with Item B (4) on the agenda, Mr. LaMothe stated the transfer of the Kellogg property to Warren County from the Open Space Institute Land Conservancy had been discussed at the previous Committee meeting. He said he had been advised by Supervisor Goodspeed from the Town of Johnsbury that he had received a significant number of requests from community organizations suggesting various uses for those buildings. Mr. LaMothe suggested the Local Waterfront Program assist the community in facilitating a public input process to research all potential options for those buildings and to refer those options to the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Committee for a final determination. While there were funds in the Local Waterfront Program to renovate those buildings, he said, no definitive decision had been reached as to their potential use, which was the purpose of this public input process.

After soliciting bids from four different pre-approved firms by the NYS Department of State, Mr. LaMothe requested permission to award the contract to Elan Planning and Design, commencing March 1, 2008 and terminating October 1, 2008, for a lump sum amount of \$4,780 for the purpose of facilitating public input on the North Creek projects. Ms. Tatich stated she wished to disclose that her brother was a principal in the firm of

Elan Planning and Design and upon a review by the County Attorney's Office, they found no impropriety as a result of that relationship.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Merlino approving the request as outlined above.

Mr. Belden queried whether the sellers had agreed to sign off on the property and Mr. LaMothe replied a management agreement currently existed and the necessary paperwork transferring ownership had been submitted to the County Attorney's Office. Mr. Dusek added the terms of the contract were being negotiated.

Once the review process had been completed, Mr. Champagne queried whether the associated costs to the County had been determined in terms of their share of the plan. Mr. LaMothe indicated \$28,000 had been appropriated for those buildings; \$8,000 of which had already been expended for repairs, and the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Department had estimated a material cost of \$19,800, with their Department providing the labor. He said the grant had not been awarded; however, he added, they were asked by the Department of State to submit an application.

After discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to Item B (5) on the agenda, Ms. Tatich requested permission for Jamie White, Small Business Development Coordinator, to attend the Association for Enterprise Opportunity in Anaheim, California from May 20 to May 23, 2008. She said the estimated cost of attending this conference was approximately \$2,000 and would be paid by grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier and seconded by Mr. Merlino approving the request as outlined above.

Mr. Taylor asked if there were any negative impacts to not attending the conference. Ms. Tatich answered the employee would not advance their knowledge in connection with the individuals in the field of small business development, which was why they originally sought her services. Messrs. Tessier and Sokol concurred it was important for County employees to attend conferences, meetings and educational seminars to build relationships. Mr. Dusek reiterated the funds to attend the conference would be obtained through a Small Cities Block Grant under the auspices of the Planning & Community Development Department and not under the jurisdiction of the Local Development Corporation (LDC).

After discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above; and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21, 2008 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Referring to Item C (1), Ms. Tatich explained their Department had been contemplating ways to reduce time expended by Department staff as it related to County Planning Board referrals. Many of the referrals received in their Office, were decisions required by their local municipalities; therefore, she said, she would recommend advancing agreements with the other communities in the County similar to the agreement they had with the Town of Queensbury for projects that had little or no County impact. At the present time, Ms. Tatich estimated their planner and administrative assistant spent between one to two weeks gathering and packaging material in preparation for the County Planning Board meeting that only made recommendations.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Champagne authorizing the Planning & Community Development Department to enter into an agreement with other municipalities similar to the one adopted with the Town of Queensbury as it related to the County Planning Board.

While a majority of the Committee agreed that the decision to approve or disapprove a project should ultimately fall on the municipality that had jurisdiction, Mr. Belden recommended that major projects continue to be referred to the County Planning Department.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Monroe said it was his recollection that this procedure had been adopted many years ago; however, he commented, it made sense to streamline the town and county planning departments in order to assure efficiency. He further indicated he was intrigued by the suggestion to eliminate the County Planning Board and to just seek the advice of the County Planning & Community Department unless there was some concern about a County staff member making recommendations versus an independently appointed planning board member. Mr. Monroe asked whether the voting requirements would change for projects that sought input from the County Planning Department. According to the General Municipal Law, Mr. Dusek replied the purpose of the County Planning Board was to study County impact. On average, Mr. LaMothe said the County Planning Board received approximately forty-two projects, thirty-five of which had no County impact.

A discussion ensued.

After discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously approving the request as outlined above.

Mr. Dusek asked to clarify the resolution request for Jamie White to travel to Anaheim, California. After referencing the documents mentioned by Mr. LaMothe, he asked whether the funds to travel would be obtained from the LDC or the Planning & Community Department budgets. Mr. LaMothe responded the materials Mrs. White presented this morning were from the LDC and "in-house" they were saying the funds were coming out of CD-64 and CD-65; however, he added, Mrs. White stated it was easier for the LDC to provide the funds and request reimbursement. If the funds came from the County budget, Mr. Dusek said it would not come before the LDC.

Referring to Item C (2), Ms. Tatich offered some cost-sharing suggestions as they related to conference travel.

Ms. Tatich stated she was interested in identifying some opportunities for cost-sharing that would be County dollars as part of the Planning & Community Department budget for travel. While she was aware of the limitations and restrictions that had been placed upon non-essential travel, Ms. Tatich asked the County to consider paying the conference registration fees and time expended for professional development if the employee would cover the travel and lodging expenses. Mr. Taylor said he would prefer the funds be appropriated in the County budget each year and leave the decision to the Department Head and not the employee. Mr. Payne stated it was the responsibility of each Department Head to expend the funds in the Travel/Conference code the best way possible and he recommended during the Budget process that they itemize all conferences and meetings attended each year, the individuals who attended, and the total cost. Ms. Tatich replied it was her belief that their Department followed that procedure, and the funds were still eliminated in 2008 County Budget; therefore, she said, this was their “fall back” option.

After a general discussion amongst the members of the Committee, it was recommended that Ms. Tatich complete an Authorization to Attend a Meeting or Conference and the amount to be expended each time a member of their Department traveled.

After reviewing the letter from Mayor Robert Blais, Village of Lake George, Mr. Tessier explained there were 1,400 acres purchased by The Fund for Lake George Land Conservancy, as well as the 300 acres for the Outdoor Drama Theater that could be leased to the County or Town of Lake George.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Schreiber
Sr. Legislative Office Specialist