

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: JUNE 20, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS PRESENT:
SUPERVISORS	REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
SOKOL	DEPARTMENT:
BELDEN	WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
TESSIER	FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
CHAMPAGNE	HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE &
MERLINO	FISCAL SERVICES
STEC	JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
TAYLOR	KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
	SUPERVISOR GIRARD
	SUPERVISOR HASKELL
	SUPERVISOR KENNY
	SUPERVISOR SHEEHAN
	SUPERVISOR SIMMES
	WILLIAM LAMY, SUPERINTENDENT OF DPW
	ALAN J. HALL, SR., TOWN OF WARRENSBURG
	CHARLENE DiRESTA, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Sokol called the Planning & Community Development Committee meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Mr. Sokol advised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed Thurman Station project.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development Department, who distributed a project summary and plans for the proposed project to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe stated that the project summary contained a list of items that were under consideration as part of a grant application through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. He said that the County would receive, through the Town of Johnsbury, a \$505,000 grant for activities within the First Wilderness Corridor. He apprised that the original request had been for \$739,000; however, he added, the items that had not been approved for grant funding could be resubmitted. He said that \$100,000 had been requested for site work at the Thurman Station and noted that the construction of the building was not eligible for grant funding. He stated that the County's match to the grant would consist of the construction of

the railroad station building. He reported that he had been informed by Paul Butler, Director of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Department, that the construction of the stations would go out to bid within the next month and should be substantially completed by June or July 2009. He added that if the grant application was approved, the funding would not be available until fall of 2009. He questioned whether the Committee wanted to resubmit the request for \$100,000 for the site work or if they would rather not proceed with the building component of the potential grant application.

Mr. Belden apprised that the Board had previously decided that a covered platform would be erected at both the station in the Town of Thurman and the station in the Town of Hadley. He asked if the plan was to construct a platform or a station at the Thurman Station, because he was opposed to investing additional funds towards the construction of a building when the Board had previously approved only the construction of a covered platform. Mr. Geraghty concurred that a decision had been agreed upon.

Mr. LaMothe apprised that the reason this meeting had been called was to decide if the items that had not been approved for grant funding should be resubmitted. Mr. Champagne questioned the amount of the local match that would be required and added that Mr. Stec had suggested at a previous meeting that no additional funds should be spent on improvement of the railroad. Mr. Sokol noted that the reason he had requested a Committee meeting was to clarify what the Committee wanted for the Thurman Station. Mr. Champagne asked where the \$323,069 that was listed on the Project Summary as local matching funds would be allocated from and Mr. LaMothe responded that the funds had either been previously programmed or would be achieved through in-kind services. Mr. Champagne further questioned if there would be future requests for a local match in order to complete the project and Mr. LaMothe explained that the funds that had been previously programmed for the construction of the Thurman Station would be used as the local matching funds for additional State funding. He said that his concern was that the majority of the work at the Thurman Station would be completed prior to the receipt of the grant funding, which would put into question the local match for the project. Mr. Champagne asked if the grant funding could be rejected once it was approved and Mr. LaMothe responded that they could reprogram the use of the funds. He reiterated that all local matching funds had been accounted for by either Departmental budget, staff time or the existing capital project, with the exception of the site work.

Mr. Girard entered the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Mr. LaMothe apprised that the Federal Highway funds would qualify as the local match for this purpose because it would be considered State funds. He said that the contracts would call for substantial completion prior to the funds becoming available. Mr. Belden noted that there had been a deadline for the funds to be expended. He reiterated that the Board had previously approved covered platforms for both the Thurman Station and the Hadley Station. He asked which would be constructed at the Thurman Station, a platform or a building and Mr. Haskell responded that the last decision that had been made was to construct a covered platform and to prepare the site for a future building. Mr. Geraghty noted that the Board had previously approved a grant application for the railroad stations and questioned if this was the same grant. Mr. LaMothe explained that this was a different source of funding through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Mr. Geraghty recalled that the Board had decided not to fund any further improvements to the railroad and that the amount that was needed to complete the current project would be bonded. He added that the site work would already be completed by the time the grant funding was available. Mr. Belden noted that it had been suggested that the Department of Public Works (DPW) complete the site work; however, he added, it had been determined that the DPW did not have the time or the necessary equipment to complete the site work for the project. Mr. Merlino added that the two stations were initially supposed to be prepared for the future construction of the railroad station buildings. He asked if the grant application could be rewritten to state building work, as opposed to site work and Mr. LaMothe responded that any work that pertained to the construction of the buildings was not eligible for funding under the grant. Mr. Belden stated that the site work had to be completed prior to the construction of the platforms.

Mr. Haskell stated that some of the site work was not scheduled to be completed at this time and added that the parking lots would not be paved until a later date. Mr. LaMothe apprised that site work and drainage work were two of the components that would be included if the grant application was resubmitted. Mr. Belden said that the drainage work should be completed prior to the construction of the platform. Mrs. Simmes asked if Resolution No. 438, which would be presented to the Board today, and referred to a bond resolution for the construction of two functionally complete railroad stations pertained to the discussion and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, replied that the resolution would authorize the \$429,000 that the County had already committed to the project.

Mr. LaMothe stated that if the funding had been available for the current round, the funds could have been deducted from the amount needed for local matching funds.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Geraghty asked if the County could pay back the amount of money that had already been expended with the grant funds from the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and Mr. LaMothe responded that funding could not be expended prior to the grant being awarded.

William Lamy, Superintendent of DPW, entered the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

It was the consensus of the Committee not to resubmit the application for grant funding to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

Mr. Champagne apprised that one of the topics at the last meeting was the issue of having the Warren/Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) assist with some of the energy auditing and possibly some of the repairs for home improvement projects throughout the County. He said that the agreement was between the CAA, the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury. He explained that the agreement was for the CAA to be hired by the County to complete the energy auditing for the projects.

Mr. Kenny entered the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Mr. Champagne said that in the past the Planning & Community Development Department had been using the services of an outside New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) group for the energy auditing. He said that additional funding could be generated by using the services of the CAA and doing so would make the operation more efficient. He said that no resolution would be necessary and added that the agreement would be signed at a meeting on Monday, June 23, 2008.

Mr. Stec entered the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Tessier, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist