

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: JULY 27, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
BELDEN
CHAMPAGNE
MERLINO
STEC
SOKOL
PITKIN

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR
WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
REPRESENTING WARREN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION:
LEONARD FOSBROOK, PRESIDENT
JOHN WHEATLEY, PROJECT MANAGER, QUEENSBURY
INDUSTRIAL PARK
FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
JOANN MCKINSTRY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
& FISCAL SERVICES
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR STRAINER
SUPERVISOR THOMAS
FRED AUSTIN, BUILDING PROJECTS COORDINATOR
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Planning & Community Development Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

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

Mr. Fosbrook stated that Congressman Scott Murphy had earmarked appropriations for a Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Act. He said that the EDC had received a request from Congressman Murphy in May asking for a list of all of the priority projects in the County. He apprised that the 1,000 foot extension of the runway at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport was on that list and had been funded through THUD. He added that a study of the feasibility of a 93 acre industrial park on Airport property had also been funded.

Mr. Fosbrook advised that the EDC Fall Luncheon would be held at the Queensbury Hotel on September 18, 2009 and Congressman Murphy would be the keynote speaker. He noted that the EDC was a member of the Center for Economic Growth and attended their conventions. He added that when the EDC was unable to attend the Warren County Banner was displayed; *pictures of which are included in the agenda packet.* He advised that the groundbreaking ceremony for Global Foundries at Luther Forest had been a significant event and was well

presented. He said that Governor Patterson was in attendance as well as former Governor Pataki and Senator Bruno. He apprised that at a cost of \$4.5 billion, Global Foundries was the largest investment in manufacturing in the history of New York State and one of the largest in the United States. He said there would be over 1,400 permanent jobs once the plant was open, which was anticipated in 2012.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Fosbrook said there had been a Common Ground meeting in Long Lake, New York the previous week, with the goal of bringing the diverse groups within the Adirondack Park together to discuss the needs of the area. He noted that Chairman Monroe was on the Steering Committee for the Common Ground. He advised that an Adirondack Regional Assessment Study had recently been completed. Chairman Monroe interjected that the study was completed with \$92,000 in grant funding from the Department of State Quality Communities Program and \$23,000 in grant funding from the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. Mr. Fosbrook said that it was a comprehensive study that would be a springboard to make future changes. He added that the EDC had discussed the possibility of developing an overall economic development plan and would need the assistance of the other communities to accomplish it. He advised that they needed to lobby the State to create a similar economic plan for the Adirondack Park. He said that an Executive Summary of the Adirondack Regional Assessment Study had been included in the agenda packet. Chairman Monroe reported that the number of students in the Adirondacks had decreased by 32% while the number of teachers had increased by 30%. Mr. Fosbrook pointed out that people with mailing addresses outside of the Adirondack Park owned 40% of the parcels within the Adirondack Park. He added that enrollment in the schools had decreased by approximately 329 students per year, which was the equivalent to the loss of one average size Adirondack school every 19 months. He stated that he would try to arrange for someone make a presentation on the study to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Fosbrook apprised that the Office of General Services (OGS) had requested a parcel of land in Warren County to construct a new readiness center. He added that at the request of William Thomas, former Chairman of the Board, the EDC had provided the OGS with a parcel in the Queensbury Industrial Park. He advised that part of the project was to put the site of the former Armory on Warren Street in the City of Glens Falls back on the tax rolls. He added that they had purchased the adjoining parcel to provide parking for the property. He apprised that a Request for Proposal (RFP) had been released to find a buyer for the parcels, which had received one response that was not acceptable to the OGS. He explained that OGS wanted to sell the parcel at auction on October 21, 2009 with a minimum bid of \$500,000.

Mr. Fosbrook said that the EDC had been in contact with Bill VanPelt, the new majority owner of the Hickory Hill Ski Center. He advised that Mr. VanPelt was a dedicated skier and had hired Shawn Dempsey, a local mountain manager. He stated that when Hickory Hill Ski Center reopened, there would be three ski areas within Warren County, which should attract more winter tourists. He advised the EDC would work with Hickory Hill Ski Center to provide collaborative marketing with ORDA (Olympic Regional Development Authority), Gore Mountain and West Mountain. Mr. Belden asked if Hickory Hill Ski Center would be open for Winter 2009 and Mr. Fosbrook replied affirmatively.

Mr. Fosbrook noted that the EDC had previously made an offer to conduct a study on tourism. He added that there was not a significant need or desire to conduct the study at this time and he would like to have it removed from the Pending Item list.

Mr. Fosbrook stated that the EDC was looking to collaborate with the Warren County Planning & Community Development Department to have the Chazen Group send out a questionnaire to the municipalities in Warren County to determine what their future projects were. He added that the Chazen Group would look at the projects to determine what needed to be done to make the projects the most qualified to receive funding. He advised that the next step would be to have a meeting to discuss where funding might exist now or in the future for the projects.

Patricia Tatich, Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, said that Mr. Fosbrook had approached her with the concept of having an engineering firm that was familiar with costs and relevance to the programs complete the survey. She added that she and Mr. Fosbrook would meet with the Chazen Group to assist in the creation of the questionnaire. She advised that there would be a section in the document entitled, Warren County Comprehensive Plan or Policy Report. She apprised that this would allow the municipalities to have a plan in place for individual projects that could be completed once the appropriate grant funding became available. Mr. Taylor said that he was in favor of a regional approach to economic development. Mr. Champagne asked if the questionnaire was being completed using grant funding and Mr. Fosbrook replied that funds from the EDC's budget would be utilized.

Brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Monroe asked how much money would be required and Mr. Fosbrook replied that the only costs involved were the costs to send out the questionnaire and facilitate the meeting. Chairman Monroe advised that due to the fact that Warren County funds were part of the EDC's budget, the County Attorney should be consulted to ensure the legality of using the Chazen Group. Mr. Fosbrook stated that the EDC Budget contained line items for consulting and engineering. Ms. Tatich said that she understood the concern that the County would be giving the appearance that all future projects would be completed by the Chazen Group. She added that the Chazen Group had volunteered to complete the questionnaire pro bono and added any other engineering firm could have made the same offer. She noted that all projects would continue to be subjected to the RFP process. Mr. Fosbrook explained that the Chazen Group would not be completing an engineering study, they would take the information provided by the municipalities, assess the documentation and determine possible funding streams.

This concluded the Economic Development portion of the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

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

Mr. Taylor apprised that during another Committee meeting there had been a comment made that the Planning & Community Development Department had been asked to write a grant application for another Department and had indicated that they did not have time to do so. He reported that there had not been any requests for the Planning & Community Development

Department to complete any grant applications. He noted that the Planning & Community Development Department currently had fifteen grant applications ongoing that totaled \$4.5 million.

Ms. Tatich requested that the Adirondack Community Housing Trust be removed from the Pending Items list.

Ms. Tatich requested authorization to apply for a grant from the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) in the amount of \$500,000. Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, said that he had discussed with Chairman Monroe and Mr. Thomas the possibility of including projects that were ongoing in their communities. He added that he had consulted the Department of State and they were encouraging the County to include ongoing projects within the hamlets. He added that the Department of State wanted to model the project after the Main Street Program and they suggested that the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor (FWHC) be used as a vehicle to make it possible. He continued by saying that the Department of State wanted the County to look at communities within the FWHC that had projects that could proceed. He advised that matching funds for the grant would come from the individual communities.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to authorize the submission of a grant application to the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21, 2009 Board meeting.*

Mr. LaMothe requested to amend Resolution No. 455 of 2001, The First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Action Plan, to include the Stony Creek Francis Dean Farm Heritage Trail Project. He noted the last page of the agenda packet was a representation of the final plan for the project. He said the project was a collaboration between the Town of Stony Creek and the ESF (Environmental Science and Forestry) College Foundation, Inc. He continued by saying that they had applied for funding for the project under the Environmental Protection Fund but it had not been funded.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 455 of 2001, as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21, 2009 Board minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe apprised that the County had submitted three requests for funding for housing improvement activities. He said that one of the requests had been under the RESTORE Program which had awarded the County funding in the amount of \$70,000 to assist seven units. He said that the applications which had been submitted under the Access to Home Program and the HOME Program had not been funded. He advised the City of Glens Falls had received funding under the HOME Program. He added that they would resubmit the applications next year. Mr. Belden asked about the amount that could be expended on each home and Mr. LaMothe responded that a maximum of \$7,500 could be spent on each home.

Ms. Tatich updated the Committee on the Broadband Study. She advised that she and Chairman Monroe had met with representatives from CBN Connect and the SUNY (State University of New York) Research Foundation to discuss the launching of a needs analysis. She continued by saying they had identified the tasks that needed to be completed, such as letters of support. She noted that CBN Connect would begin the study sometime after August 14, 2009. She advised that the meeting had taken place on Friday, July 24, 2009 with Mark Luciano, Assistant to Congressman Murphy, at the Congressman's Office in the City of Glens Falls. Chairman Monroe advised that Congressman Murphy was in favor of the Broadband Project and he felt the project would qualify for Economic Stimulus funding. He added that the only concern that Congressman Murphy had was if the businesses, hospitals, colleges, etc. were in favor of broadband services and if they would have a need to use them. He advised that the survey would show the need and added that it was important for the County to obtain the letters of support.

Chairman Monroe apprised that Hamilton County was supportive of the project and added that it was important to get Washington County on board. He said that the Economic Stimulus funding for broadband was for rural areas and Mr. Luciano had pointed out that it would be helpful if there was more than one county included from Congressman Murphy's district. He stated that the total request was for \$560,000 for the three counties of which \$50,000 would come from Hamilton County and \$50,000 would come from Warren County, if Washington County did not join the effort. If Washington County joined the study, he continued, it would cost each of the three counties \$40,000. He explained that the funds were to cover the cost of conceptual design so that the counties would have a plan in place and would be eligible for Economic Stimulus funding that would be issued in March of 2010.

Brief discussion ensued.

In reference to the comment that the Planning & Community Development Department was not making themselves available to other Departments for assistance with grant applications, Ms. Tatich explained that the Department had protocols in place for assisting other departments and local communities with formal funding requests and other large projects. She advised that the Planning & Community Development Department had not received any requests for assistance with grant applications. She explained that when the Department was made aware of another department or community that needed assistance, it was discussed by the Planning & Community Development Department to determine the extent that they would be involved. She gave the example that the Department had completed the application for a Small Cities grant for Hudson Headwaters Health Network for their project in the Town of Queensbury. She said that if a grant application or project for another department or community would consume a significant amount of the Department's time, they would bring the request to the Committee for permission to proceed. She added that requests that took one to two hours of technical assistance were completed on a regular basis.

Ms. Tatich apprised that she and Mr. LaMothe had met with Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, and the Board of Elections to view the proposed space in the Human Services Building for the Planning & Community Development Department. She advised that there were a few small changes that would need to be made but otherwise they were content with the space that had been allotted to them.

Mr. Belden asked if the funding had been determined for the GIS (Global Information Systems) Coordinator position. He reported that the possibility of hiring their own GIS employee was on this month's Lake George Park Commission agenda. Ms. Tatich responded that she was unaware of the issue. She added that a plan was in place to fund the position for the remainder of 2009 and for 2010.

Ms. Tatich said she had received a phone call from Matt Sprow, of Up Yonda Farm, to discuss opportunities for possible funding. She added that she had requested Mr. Sprow send her a letter that included Up Yonda Farm's Mission Statement and some budgetary information. She advised that she would research possible funding streams and would report her findings to the Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Planning & Community Development Committee, on motion by Mr. Pitkin and seconded by Mr. Champagne, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist