

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR  
CONOVER  
MONROE  
WOOD  
MASON

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:  
VICTORIA PRATT GERBINO, PRESIDENT  
JOHN WHEATLEY, VICE PRESIDENT  
JENNIFER SWITZER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:  
PATRICIA TATICH, DIRECTOR  
WAYNE LAMOTHE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
DANIEL STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
SUPERVISOR THOMAS  
BLAKE JONES, *THE POST STAR*  
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*  
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 3:36 p.m.

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

Mr. Taylor noted there was no agenda available for the Economic Development Corporation portion of the Committee meeting and the only item was to discuss and approve the Economic Development and Grant Administration Agreement between Warren County and the Warren County Local Development Corporation (LDC); *a copy of the agreement is on file with the minutes*. Mr. Taylor commented that the agreement had been approved at the LDC meeting which had been held immediately preceding this meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize an agreement between Warren County and the Warren County Local Development Corporation to provide Warren County with Economic Development and Grant Administration services for a term commencing January 1, 2012 and terminating December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17, 2012 Board meeting. (Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that authorization for the agreement was approved by Resolution No. 49 of 2012 and no further action was necessary.)*

This concluded the Economic Development Corporation portion of the Committee meeting and the Planning & Community Development portion commenced at 3:38 p.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 the agenda is on file with the minutes*.

Ms. Tatich noted there were no pending items this month. She presented a request to authorize submission of a grant application to New York State Empire State Development, New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation and other pertinent New York State Agencies for funding assistance for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flood mitigation, for a term commencing February 17, 2012 and terminating August 1, 2013, in an amount not to exceed \$483,780.

Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, explained the grant process allowed for applications between \$300,000 and \$500,000 and they had identified three projects which met the criteria. He added two of the projects were in the Town of Thurman and one was in the Town of Bolton. He said one of the Town of Thurman projects was on River Road with a cost estimate of \$261,000 and the other was on Dippikill Road with a cost estimate of \$159,280. The project in the Town of Bolton, he continued, was on New Vermont Road and the cost estimate was \$63,500. Mr. LaMothe stated the grant funding criteria included the fact that the projects could not be eligible for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding and they had to have been impacted by Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee. He commented that he had been in contact with the State and had submitted a preliminary budget for the projects.

Mr. Monroe asked if the criteria covered damage from spring flooding which had been made worse by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee and Mr. LaMothe replied affirmatively. Mr. LaMothe clarified the funding was designed for stream channel restoration but could be used to accomplish improvements, such as replacing a culvert with a bridge because the culvert had been overwhelmed by the amount of rainfall. He said the County DPW (Department of Public Works) staff had completed the cost estimate for the River Road project, the Town of Thurman had contracted with Cedar Wood Engineering to complete the cost estimate for the Dippikill Road project and the Town of Bolton had contracted with Schoder Rivers Associates to complete the cost estimate for the New Vermont Road project.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe and seconded by Mrs. Wood to authorize submission of the grant application as outlined above.

Mrs. Wood thanked Mr. LaMothe for his prompt attention to this issue and said she appreciated the efforts of the Planning & Community Development Department, the DPW and others who contributed to the work associated with these projects. Mr. Mason asked if there was a local match required for this grant funding and Mr. LaMothe replied the grant did not require matching funds; however, he added, if the local community provided some type of local match it would increase the chance of receiving funding. Between the two Towns, he continued, there was \$102,700 of local matching funds via labor from Town work forces. He explained the grant funding would be a County award which would require an intermunicipal agreement with the Towns in order to extend the funds. He added the County would not be required to provide a local match other than administrative time. Chairman Stec also thanked Mr. LaMothe for his efforts in this regards and for completing the work in a timely manner.

Mr. Taylor called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to authorize submission of a grant application to New York State Empire State Development, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and other pertinent New York State Agencies for funding assistance for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flood mitigation, for a term commencing February 17, 2012 and terminating August 1, 2013, in an amount not to exceed \$483,780. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17, 2012 Board meeting.*

Ms. Tatich presented a request to authorize out-of-State travel on an as needed basis to allow Mr. LaMothe to attend the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership meetings in Grand Isle,

Vermont. She noted the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership would provide an opportunity to advance projects which were part of the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor and the new Scenic Byway. Mr. LaMothe explained that Federal Legislation had been passed in 2006 which created the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. He added the Department of State had not been aware of the new legislation and he had also been uninformed. He reported the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership included Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Clinton and Essex Counties in New York State and extended into several counties in Vermont State and Quebec, Canada. Mr. LaMothe explained the legislation, which had enacted the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, had also set aside \$10 million in Federal appropriations for marketing, promotion and Heritage identification through the year 2021. He stated the Lake Champlain Basin Program had been chosen as the administrative entity and he had been in contact with them to introduce himself and the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Program. He said he was informed by the Lake Champlain Basin Program representative that there had not been representation in the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership from Warren County and they invited him to participate in the meetings and learn more about the program. He advised of a small grant funding program which would commence with \$300,000 in funding available for the partner counties. He noted travel expenses for attendance at these meetings would be allocated from the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Program.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize out-of-State travel on an as needed basis to allow Mr. LaMothe to attend the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership meetings in Grand Isle, Vermont. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17, 2012 Board meeting.*

Mr. Monroe asked if there were regulatory requirements to the Partnership and Mr. LaMothe replied that one of the reasons he would attend the meetings would be to learn all the details and requirements. Mr. LaMothe stated he wanted to show the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Plan to the Partnership and review their plan to determine opportunities for collaboration. Mr. Monroe said he had been informed of a Program which would require the passing of ordinances pertaining to off premises signage and Mr. LaMothe replied that Ms. Tatich would discuss that particular Program next.

Ms. Tatich displayed The First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway Map to the Committee members and pointed out the features included on the map. She said the Scenic Byways Programs in the Adirondacks were managed by ANCA (Adirondack North Country Association), of which she was a Board member. She advised that ANCA had received funding in 2011 to assist in the conversion of the old Dude Ranch Trail to the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway. She added the Corridor Management Plan was nearing completion and the Plan would be presented to the State Scenic Byway Committee.

In response to Mr. Monroe's inquiry pertaining to off premises signage, Ms. Tatich replied there were some issues pertaining to signage and certain specifications of roads. She explained the Town Supervisors from Chestertown, Warrensburg, Hadley and Corinth had been contacted with requests to pass special resolutions. Initiating the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway, she continued, had increased the opportunity for funding streams if damage was incurred. She advised she would be sending a letter with a sample resolution to the Town Supervisors requesting each Town to pass a resolution of support for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway. She thanked Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, and Amanda Allen, Senior Legislative Office Specialist, for their assistance in locating previous minutes and resolutions pertaining to the First Wilderness

Heritage Corridor. She pointed out there were three Scenic Byways represented on the map, which would become National Scenic Byways. and she listed the three Scenic Byways as follows: the Lakes to Locks Corridor Scenic Byway; the Central Adirondack Trail Scenic Byway; and the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway. She noted the three Scenic Byways converged at one point in Lake George Village. She stated the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway Project was nearing completion and reimbursements would be forthcoming.

Mr. LaMothe pointed out that 85% of the route for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Scenic Byway encompassed the old Dude Ranch Trail. Mr. Taylor asked if Ms. Tatich was requesting a resolution of support from the County and Ms. Tatich reiterated that she would send letters and sample resolutions of support to the Town Supervisors. Ms. Tatich stated she had voiced her displeasure with the passing of ordinances pertaining to off premises signage, as it had not been a condition of joining the Scenic Byway Program. Mr. Monroe stated that off premises signage was important to businesses which were not located on the main route. He said it had been explained to him that Federal Highway Rules were already in place for the main highways and he suggested the County Attorney's Office look into the ramifications. He advised there was already an ordinance in place for off premises signage in the Adirondacks and noted the passing of a resolution may fall under the existing ordinance. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, asked if the ordinance would be for all of Warren County and Mr. Monroe replied affirmatively. A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Monroe, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist