

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: MAY 29, 2013

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
WOOD
MASON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS MONTESI
MONROE

OTHERS PRESENT:

WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR STRAINER
JAMIE MUNKS, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 9:32 a.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 Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, County Planner, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. LaMothe presented a request to establish Capital Project Number H340.9550 280, First Wilderness Heritage Corridor 2012 Award, in the amount of \$616,000 for administering the Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant. Mr. Mason asked if the funds had been received yet and Mr. LaMothe replied in the negative.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to authorize the establishment of Capital Project Number H340.9550 280, First Wilderness Heritage Corridor 2012 Award, as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe explained that the next three requests pertained to amending Capital funds. He said that the Treasurer's Office had established a new requirement that local matches be included in the fund balance. Mr. Taylor asked if Mr. LaMothe knew why the Treasurer's Office initiated this change and Mr. LaMothe replied affirmatively. He explained that he initially thought that the requirement originated from the New York State Comptroller's Office; however, he stated, he had been notified by the Treasurer's Office this was not the case. He advised, according to the Treasurer's Office, the change was required to reflect sound accounting practices and that the County Administrator was in support of the change, as well.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Mason voiced their concerns that the change would have negative consequences. Mr. Thomas queried whether County funds would become unnecessarily tied up and Mr. LaMothe replied that he had been informed this would not be the case. He stated his concern was that this would result in inflated government expenditures; however, he said, the Treasurer's Office had indicated this would not be an issue.

Mr. Taylor asked what would happen if no action was taken at the meeting and Mr. LaMothe replied

that he would present the requests at the next Committee meeting, if necessary. Mrs. Wood suggested tabling the requests until further review could be completed.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to table the requests until further review was completed.

Mr. LaMothe voiced his concern with the executive order requiring that 10% of all contracts awarded through New York State be granted to businesses owned by women and another 10% bestowed to minority owned businesses. He explained that of the \$4.2 million in funding awarded to the Planning Department, an estimated \$800,000 would have to include contracts with women or minority owned businesses. He said that the County used to be excluded from meeting this requirement because less than 5% of the background population was minority; however, he apprised, this was no longer the case. For example, he stated, a recent bid for enclosing the train stations in Hadley and Thurman received no interest from either minority or women owned vendors. He apprised that the County had the option to spend the time and money to rebid projects until they met the requirements or they could overlook the requirements and award contracts; however, he said, they would have to forgo 20% of the grant funding award.

Mr. LaMothe pointed out that it was not an issue for most downstate Counties such as Westchester County, as they had a number of women and minority owned businesses. He noted that it would increase the costs of projects in Warren County because the majority of the businesses were located south of Albany and would require more money to travel. Mr. Taylor advised that since it was an executive order he felt it should be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further discussion.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to refer the issue to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further discussion.

With regards to the Sustainability Grant, Mr. LaMothe advised that it was moving forward. He explained that the Regional Economic Development Council had approved it and the Governor would be making an announcement of support within the next few weeks. He apprised that he was looking into how the County could apply for a portion of the \$25 million in funding available, as it applied to sustainable energy and increasing the performance in waste water treatment, etc.

He noted that he was working with the County Administrator and the Town of Warrensburg to research whether the Small Cities Grant could be applied for through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to connect Countryside Adult Home with the Town of Warrensburg sewer system. He said that Countryside's septic system was within close proximity of a few of the wells belonging to the Town of Warrensburg. He stated it was not within the critical area; however, he said, he felt it would be eligible to receive funding.

Mr. LaMothe requested a transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,000 from Code 71-8686 410, Supplies, to Code 71-8686 220, Equipment, to cover a portion of the cost of purchasing new Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment. He noted this was to replace an aged unit that was no longer compatible with the County computer system. He estimated the cost of the new GPS to be \$8,621, which would be paid for by grant funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request for transfer of funds as outlined above and forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe advised that a copy of the First Wilderness Corridor Project List and funding awards for 2007 through 2012 was included in the agenda. He encouraged the Committee members to review the packet and return to the next Committee meeting with any questions.

Mr. Mason stated that he wanted to discuss whether the Airport was considered an economic development project or a community development project. He said that he had researched it and was still unsure as to the answer. Mr. Taylor suggested continuing the discussion after the new President of the Economic Development Corporation had been hired.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Mason and seconded by Mrs. Wood, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist