

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MCDEVITT
SEEKER
WESTCOTT
BROCK

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR DICKINSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING SUNY ADIRONDACK:

DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT
ANN MARIE SOMMA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES AND TREASURER
BRIAN DURANT, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC & STUDENT
AFFAIRS
ANTHONY PALANGI, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
RACHEL PATTEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SUNY ADIRONDACK
FOUNDATION
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, WARREN COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR STROUGH
DEB PREHODA, WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN HAYES, WASHINGTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BRIAN CAMPBELL, WASHINGTON COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER
MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SARAH MCLENITHAN, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Mr. McDevitt called the meeting of the Community College Committee to order at 1:10 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Brock, seconded by Mr. Westcott 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 Dr. Kristine Duffy, President, SUNY (State University of New York) Adirondack who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes. Ms. Duffy advised the first item on the agenda was a request for support of the SUNY Adirondack Capital Project for 2015, which needed to be submitted to SUNY by the end of this fall.

Ms. Duffy requested Ann Marie Somma, Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer, provide an overview of the proposed SUNY Adirondack Capital Projects for 2015. Ms. Somma apprised she had three items to review with the Committee, the first of which consisted of the SUNY Adirondack Capital Project request for the 2015 State Fiscal Year. She said Item 2 referred to a land donation and Item 3 encompassed any questions and/or comments the Committee members may have.

With regards to the Capital Project Request, Ms. Somma advised the request was submitted to the State once a year to fund 50% of the Project. She said the State required the request to be submitted to them in the fall for approval the following June. She stated a Capital Project Number was usually provided in August; therefore, she apprised, work commenced during the summer months contingent upon the availability of the Local Share of funding. She commented the Capital Projects must be approved by the sponsors in order for the State to

consider appropriating 50% of the cost of the project. She said this years request differed from that of previous requests, as they were seeking approval on two items.

Ms. Somma stated the State Education Law regulated the Capital Project funding stream. She said the Local Share of 50% could include monetary contributions from the County, Capital chargebacks, and monetary contributions from the FSA (Faculty -Student Association, Inc). She explained Capital Chargebacks originated from the \$300 fee per FTE (Full Time Equivalent) per semester for non sponsor New York State residents. She pointed out because Warren and Washington Counties were considered sponsors of the college they were not required to pay the FTE fees to the college. She noted the majority of funding from chargebacks derived from Saratoga County. She apprised the average amount of funding received from chargebacks on an annual basis was about \$395,000. She stated support from the SUNY Adirondack Foundation and the FSA was also considered part of the Local Share. She said both organizations had contributed funds towards the building of the Regional Higher Education Center as well as the academic building in Wilton. She mentioned other sources of funding that could be utilized for the Local Share were grant funding or contributions received from businesses such as Barnes and Noble, who donated funds towards the renovation of the Student Center.

Ms. Somma apprised the first request referred to a Capital Expenditure for Critical/Deferred Maintenance in the amount of \$1,160,544 and a Capital Expenditure for Upgrades to the Childcare Center in the amount of \$468,807 for a total Capital Project cost of \$1,629,351. She said the scope of work for the Critical/Deferred Maintenance included replacing vertical blinds in the Scoville Learning Center, installing new distribution panels, repairing the retaining wall in the Warren Hall parking lot and gating the parking lot circle, repairing walkway site lighting and adding additional lighting campus wide, several ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance projects, leveling the pathway between the Residents Hall and the Food Service area, and evaluating improving the campus landscaping and renovating the bathrooms in the Student Center. She noted the 50% Local match requirement for the upgrades to the Childcare Center and the renovations to the Student Center bathrooms would be funded by contributions from the FSA. She mentioned the total amount required for the Local Share was \$814,676, of which \$505,272 would be provided from chargebacks and the remainder of \$309,404 from donation by the FSA.

With regards to the second request, Ms. Somma stated they were seeking support for the Adirondack Community College Improvement Plan for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$21 million. She said this included new construction and renovation of the Center for Health Care, Research & STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) building in the amount of \$20 million and the rehabilitation of Washington Hall in the amount of \$1 million. She apprised they had been notified their application for SUNY 20/20 grant funding was unsuccessful. She said they were submitting the Improvement Plan to SUNY as a Capital Project to ensure they are aware of the need for the building. She said a determination as to whether a new building would be constructed or an existing building would be renovated would be rendered once they were notified by SUNY about how much money they were willing to contribute to the project. She apprised their goal was to set the stage with SUNY to ask them if they were willing to fund 50% of the Project or not. She added historically SUNY had always been agreeable to fund 50% of the Capital Projects they submitted to them as

long as there was support from the sponsors; however, she said, there were a few projects that did not receive funding last year.

Ms. Somma advised the proposed financing for the Local Share of the Project was private funding, including but not limited to a capital campaign by the Adirondack Community College Foundation and outside grants. She pointed out due to the high cost of the Project, chargebacks would not be utilized as a source of funding on this Project. She stated they planned on applying for the SUNY 20/20 grant again this year. She said if their application was declined again this year they would have to look into rehabilitating an existing building and downscaling the project.

In response to a question from a Washington County Supervisor, Ms. Somma explained at this time there was no sponsor contributions involved in the Project; however, she said, she was unsure whether they would be requesting financial assistance from the sponsors in the future. Ms. Duffy stated their concern was that if the Projects were not listed on SUNY's Capital Project list and they were awarded the SUNY 20/20 grant, they may not be able to move forward with them. She pointed out SUNY advised them to submit the application to them even though they were unsure of the Local Share contribution. She apprised this would ensure the project was on SUNY's list when SUNY Adirondack was able to raise the Local Share portion of the grant. Ms. Somma apprised due to the long lead time with Capital Projects with SUNY, it was necessary to plan ahead. She stated the resolution required for this project would be similar to Resolution No. 293 of 2004, which supported the Higher Education Building Project but indicated the Local Share would be raised through private sources, grants and the Adirondack Community College Foundation.

Moving along, Ms Somma advised the Michaels Group had generously offered to donate an additional 1.58 acres to the college adjacent to the 12.38 acres they donated in 2010. She said the appraised value of the property was \$165,000. She reminded the Committee because the donation was land the Counties had to accept the donation on behalf of the college. She stated an environmental site assessment completed by C. T. Male revealed there was no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the property. She noted the Michaels Group had completed a conceptual site plan for a 5,600 square foot office building with 23 parking spaces that met all of the relevant setbacks. She apprised the property connected to the campus and provided students access to the walking trails on the other side of Meadowbrook Road.

Brian Campbell, Washington County Budget Officer, questioned whether the conceptual site plan for a 5,600 square foot building was relevant to the new building that was proposed in the Capital Project and Ms. Somma replied in the negative. She said a possible use for the property could be a Start-Up New York site. Mr. Campbell asked whether the college would need to seek approval from the Counties to sell the site and Ms. Somma replied affirmatively. Mr. Campbell queried whether how the site could be utilized for Start-Up New York and Ms. Somma replied SUNY Adirondack would need to add the site to their Start-Up New York plan.

Motion was made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Mr. Westcott and carried unanimously to support the Adirondack Community College Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$1,629,351 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 17, 2014

Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Brock, seconded by Mr. Westcott and carried unanimously to support the Adirondack Community College Improvement Plan for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$21 million and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 17, 2014 Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Westcott, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously to accept the gift of 1.58 acre Property Tax Map No. 296.8-1-8.12 to SUNY Adirondack Community College by the Michaels Group, LLC and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 17, 2014 Board meeting.

Ms. Somma advised the CCBOA (Community College Business Officer's Group), which she was a member of, would be meeting to discuss the Chargeback Legislation that was passed last year and the implementation of this. She said the goal of the legislation was to equal the chargeback rate with the rate the sponsor County's contribute per FTE for their resident students. Kevin Hayes, Washington County Administrator, questioned whether this meant the rate of the chargeback for non-sponsor Counties would be the same rate the sponsor Counties paid per FTE and Ms. Somma replied affirmatively. Ms. Somma pointed out since the rates were within range of each other now the impact on the college would not be as astronomical as it would be to other colleges such as HVCC (Hudson Valley Community College) and FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology). She stated SUNY Adirondack would lose about \$100,000 in revenue per year. Mr. Hayes questioned whether this legislation would lower the chargeback rate they paid to HVCC. Ms. Somma explained once this legislation was implemented the chargeback rate Washington County paid to HVCC would be reduced unless their sponsor increased their contribution.

Ms. Duffy pointed out HVCC stood to lose a substantial amount of revenue when the legislation was implemented. Ms. Somma advised the CCBOA was putting together an implementation plan to propose to the Community College President's Group, which would then be negotiated with the Counties. Mr. Hayes questioned whether a five year phase in period was under consideration and Ms. Somma replied affirmatively. Ms. Duffy added it would be detrimental to HVCC if they were to lose such a substantial amount of revenue at one time. She continued, dependent upon the outcome of the implementation, colleges such as SUNY Adirondack whose impact from the change would be minimal may choose to absorb the loss at once rather phasing it in over a five year period.

Mr. Campbell questioned whether the CCBOA had the authority to implement their proposal and Ms. Somma replied in the negative. She explained the CCBOA would be proposing their recommendations to the Community College President's Group. Ms. Duffy stated the role of the Community College President's Group was to work with SUNY to lobby for what they felt was the best course of action for all the colleges. She added the Counties would be having discussions regarding this matter, as well. She reminded the Committees the Legislation was originally supposed to be implemented last spring; however, she said, due to the discussion that took place at NYSAC's (New York State Association of Counties) it was put on hold for another year to continue the discussion and make a recommendation as to how to phase this in. She stated the final decision would be rendered by the State Legislature.

A Washington County Supervisor asked what the rationale for the change was and Ms. Duffy replied Albany County and Long Island were pushing for the change due to the disproportionate and unpredictable chargeback rate they were required to pay to HVCC and FIT. She added several of the Community Colleges felt the current system was working; however, she said, the new legislation was passed to assist the few colleges with sizable disparities. Mr. Westcott stated since the change would have an impact on the Budget he queried whether they were aware what budget year would be impacted and Ms. Somma replied she was unsure; however, she said, she believed the intent was the 2015-2016 Budget.

A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Duffy advised they had received feedback from SUNY on their SUNY 20/20 application. She said SUNY stated although they were impressed with the proposal they felt it lacked the ability to demonstrate how it would create new jobs for the region, which was a priority of the Governor. She said the projects that were funded had the ability to demonstrate how they were going to create new jobs whereas SUNY Adirondack's proposal centered around increasing the pipeline of students in STEM disciplines. She continued, another issue they had with the proposal was its lack of capital funding, as they had leveraged a substantial amount of personnel and salaries to reach the matching amount required. SUNY's response to her question as to how to better position the application, she apprised, was their desire to see some sort of financial contribution from the sponsors other than capital chargebacks. She said they were going to reconvene the work group that put together the grant and discuss ways to locate additional funding to provide at least a portion of the match required.

Ms. Duffy advised the next round of funding for the SUNY 20/20 grant funding had been approved and they were awaiting word from SUNY on the timeline for the grant, as well as what the parameters that they would be looking for in the applications, based upon what the Governor's Office was interested in funding. She said the parameters would assist them in compiling their application.

Ms. Duffy informed the Committees they were updating their Facilities Master Plan. She said this encompassed reviewing the science and space needs and developing alternative plans if the Adirondack Community College Improvement Plan for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$21 million was not awarded. She said this would provide them with different options to consider to ensure they did not lose the momentum to have more space to meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Hayes questioned whether the 50% match required on this grant was the capital the college was trying to raise and Ms. Duffy replied affirmatively. She explained the 50% match did not necessarily have to be all capital, as personnel expenses could be utilized as part of the match, as well. She said SUNY's desire was for the match requirement to include some percentage of capital. Ms. Somma pointed out the funding would be similar to the funding that was utilized for the Regional Higher Education Center. She advised that funding consisted of 50% capital match from the state, grant funding from the State, donations from the SUNY Adirondack Foundation, as well as a multitude of other funding sources that added up to the 50% Local Share required.

With regards to Start-Up NY, Ms. Duffy stated they continued to work on inquiries. She pointed out a process had been put in place to waive the requirement that a business had to locate within one mile of the campus to be eligible for the program. She advised they were actively engaged with a few companies from Warren and Washington Counties regarding the program. She continued, as soon as they had confirmation that the company met requirements of both SUNY Adirondack and the State they would move forward. She commented they were hopeful they would have 2-3 projects involved with the Program within the next few months.

Ms. Seeber questioned whether there was a restriction on the distance from the campus that the business located and Ms. Duffy replied in the negative. She explained there was no mileage restriction; however, she said, there was a restriction on the square footage. She advised they could only designate up to 200,000 square feet of off campus property. She noted if vacant property was owned by the IDA (Industrial Development Agency) and available for a Start-Up NY project, the college did not have to include this in the 200,000 square feet.

Mr. McDevitt questioned the progress of the Fall Semester for Sports and Ms. Duffy replied both the Women's Volleyball and Tennis Teams had clinched the regional titles. Mr. Hayes asked the status of enrollment. Ms Duffy stated the Fall Semester numbers were not official yet; however, she said, all indicators were pointing towards a slight increase from last year. She pointed out most of the growth was with continuing students, as the number of new students from last year that had re-enrolled had increased. She noted the enrollment for most of the Community Colleges in the State had either remained the same or declined. She commented there was a reduction in the number of high school graduates enrolling at the college, which was in line with what they had expected. A Washington County Supervisor queried what the capacity of the Student Housing was and Ms. Duffy replied the Student Housing was at 95% capacity. She apprised there had been less incidents thus far in Student Housing than there had been last year.

There being no further business to come before the Community College Committee, on motion made by Mr. Westcott and seconded by Ms. Seeber, Mr. McDevitt adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board