

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: APRIL 23, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MCDEVITT
BEATY
LEGGETT
BRAYMER
STROUGH
HOGAN
SIMPSON
WILD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MAGOWAN

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
JOHN WHEATLY, VICE PRESIDENT

REPRESENTING WARREN COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
AMY LAVINE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

SUPERVISORS DIAMOND

FRASIER

LOEB

MERLINO

SOKOL

MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

KEVIN CONINE, INVESTIGATOR, WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT HENKE, WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 23, 2018 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2018/economic>

Mr. McDevitt called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 9:15 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Simpson 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 Ed Bartholomew, *President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC)*, who reviewed a power point presentation outlining EDC activities, and a discussion ensued; *a copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Loeb entered the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Mrs. Frasier and Mr. Diamond entered the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Ms. Braymer inquired if the Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board (*LCLG Regional Planning Board*) fell under the category which was required to be in compliance of the New York State Authorities Budget Office (*ABO*) and Mr. Bartholomew replied in the negative. Amy Lavine, *Assistant County Attorney*, informed the Regional Planning Board was not a public authority and therefore was not covered by the Public Authority Act.

Mr. Bartholomew noted Jeff Byrne, NYS ORDA (*New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority*) Board Member, had retired after twelve years of service and his replacement was Mike Pratt. He added that EDC Board Member Bud Taylor had retired and Matt Simpson had taken his place.

Mr. McDevitt announced Walter Young, *Executive Director, Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board*, had been contacted and he advised he would not be in attendance today due to

confusion on his part as to the date and time of the meeting. He said Mr. Young had intended to bring his auditor to the meeting with him.

Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, recommended holding another meeting to allow Mr. Young and his auditor to attend and answer the Committee's questions.

Mr. Beaty voiced his disappointment with Mr. Young's absence and his failure to respond to questions asked by the Committee. He requested that Chairman Conover and Robert Henke, *Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors*, call an emergency meeting of the five Counties involved in overseeing the Regional Planning Board to seek Mr. Young's resignation. Ms. Braymer voiced her disbelief that Mr. Young was not present, particularly in light of the fact that at their last Board Meeting, held on April 20th, the Warren County Board of Supervisors had rescinded a prior resolution authorizing payment to the Planning Board. Ms. Braymer also noted there were other oversight counties concerned with the organization's finances, as well.

Chairman Conover advised he supported the idea of holding another meeting with Mr. Young and his auditor. He acknowledged that Mr. Young should be expected to perform his duties as Director, which included communication with the Boards/Committees of the oversight counties, as well as to provide answers to the financial questions that existed. He agreed that more information needed to be provided by the Regional Planning Board, particularly with regard to the financial aspects of their organization.

Mr. Wild mentioned the possibility that Mr. Young could have been advised by his legal counsel not to make an appearance or to provide financial information given the current investigation on the Regional Planning Board. Mr. Beaty voiced his discontent that Mr. Young had not attended this meeting after previously agreeing to do so, as well as his lack of willingness to provide information that was requested and he voiced his concerns with providing Mr. Young another opportunity.

A discussion ensued, following which it was determined the majority of the Committee was in favor of scheduling another meeting as suggested by Mr. Moore. Upon the recommendation of Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, Mr. McDevitt announced a special meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee would be held on Thursday May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.; Mr. McDevitt asked Mr. Moore to reach out to Mr. Young to ensure his attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Beaty suggested inviting the chairmen of all the counties involved in providing oversight for the Regional Planning Board to the meeting so they could receive the information and ask questions, as well.

Speaking as a member of the Planning Committee for the A/GFTC (*Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council*), Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, voiced his concerns with regard to the future of the A/GFTC which the Regional Planning Board served as the host agency of. He advised the A/GFTC was the vehicle for State funding provided for road and bridge projects and he was very concerned about alienating this agency because the County was dependent on it.

Mr. McDevitt informed the purpose of the special meeting would be to obtain more information and he reiterated it was the consensus of the Committee, with the exception of Mr. Beaty, to hold one more meeting for Mr. Young to attend. Mr. Beaty stated that if Mr. Young did not attend the May 3rd meeting, he would make his official request for the oversight counties to meet and seek Mr. Young's resignation.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion made by Mr Strough and seconded by Mr. Simpson, Mr. McDevitt adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board