

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: WILD
 HOGAN
 LEGGETT
 BRAYMER
 MAGOWAN
 MCDEVITT
 SEEBER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: CONOVER
 DICKINSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT:
 WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
 CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER
 SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
 PATRICIA TATICH, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
 AMANDA BECK, JUNIOR PLANNER

REPRESENTING SUNY ADIRONDACK:
 DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
 ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
 JOHN WHEATLY, VICE PRESIDENT
FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL
 FRASIER
 MERLINO

TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ELIZABETH MILLER, PRESIDENT, MILLER MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC
NATHAN HALL, MILLER MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC.
BETH GILLES, DIRECTOR, LAKE CHAMPLAIN-LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL
 PLANNING BOARD
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the January 24, 2020 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2020/economic/>

Mr. Wild called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee to order at 9:02 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried by majority vote, with Ms. Seeber and Mr. Magowan abstaining, to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was presented to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who distributed copies of the Planning & Community Development agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. LaMothe presented a request to appoint Jack Mance to the Climate Smart Task

Force. After a brief discussion it was determined the request would be referred to the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Service Committee for consideration.

Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Administrator*, spoke regarding Census 2020 Outreach Funding. She indicated the State had nine years to prepare for the 2020 Census but they were behind. She added there would be a conference in Albany next week where they hoped to have their questions answered. She mentioned the State had pushed grant payments out to March 10th which she thought was ridiculous because by that point the Census cards would have already been mailed out. She informed the funding would cover outreach, literature sessions, special events and mobilization, adding payments would be distributed through a non-profit organization, but only 5% was provided for digital media. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, mentioned he had spoken to Richard Tobe, *Director of State, Special Projects*, to gather more information during which Mr. Tobe indicated January 23rd was the RFA's (*Request for Applications*) would be released. He said this would result in a grant disbursement from Empire State Development which provided a 40% immediate disbursement. He advised 50% reimbursement would be provided upon evidence that the work was being done and at the project close they would receive the remaining 10%. He mentioned there was a second process where the Southern Adirondack Library System (*SALS*) had to be qualified by the State to be a pass-through entity; informing Mr. Tobe indicated *SALS* was a good choice for a pass-through entity and was likely to be qualified, but he could not make that guarantee. Mr. Moore also was told that the reimbursement payments would be retroactive for any purchases the County made beginning January 1st.

Upon further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried unanimously to delegate authority to the County Administrator to authorize contract approvals, budget amendments and expenditures up to a cumulative total of \$99,798 to effectuate the Census Outreach Project, with the County Administrator to report back to the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee on all actions taken, and refer same to the Finance Committee.

Mr. LaMothe advised he would discuss the 2019 Annual Report at next months meeting.

Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President of Suny Adirondack*, distributed copies of "Report to the Community Fresh Perspective 2018, 2019", a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes. She advised they had received grant money for the Culinary Program that would be used to reimburse to the County. She noted that classes had started Tuesday for the spring semester and advised community college attendance had been down throughout the State. She said construction of the new Sports Complex was going according to plan and would open in October, but noted the lighting had not been included in the grant award. She mentioned the Governor had not included additional community college funding in his budget, but had provided allowances for a journeyman technical degree.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ed Bartholomew, *President, Economic Development Corporation*, who presented a Power Point presentation entitled "Collaborating" and answered question posed by the Committee; *a copy of the presentation is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. Wild informed he had met with Chairman Thomas and asked what he expected from him as the new Chair of the Committee and Chairman Thomas responded he would like the Committee to develop a new strategic economic plan for the County. Mr. Wild explained he was interested in scheduling a listening tour, which any Committee members were welcome to attend, to discover the areas most impacted by economic growth. Mr. Wild apprised in November he had talked about the loss of industrial land in the City of Glens Falls, a significant amount of which had become tax exempt and impacted growth.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Attorney Nathan Hall, *representing Miller Mechanical Services, Inc.*, who

spoke about property located at 4750 Cooper Street in the City of Glens Falls which was zoned for light industrial use. He explained the property was proposed to be a site for a homeless shelter; however, Miller Mechanical Services Inc. was interested in acquiring the property to expand their business. He noted Miller Mechanical Services, Inc. earned \$1.5 million a year, and had a good relationship with community. He said there was a disparity between the proposed property use and what it should be and he had sent a letter to the Board concerning the matter. Elizabeth Miller, *President, Miller Mechanical Services, Inc.*, confirmed she wanted to expand her business in Warren County. A brief discussion ensued.

As there was no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Ms. Braymer and seconded by Mr. Magowan, Mr. Wild adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist