

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: APRIL 21, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: WILD
HOGAN
LEGGETT
BRAYMER
DICKINSON
MAGOWAN
MCDEVITT
SEEBER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING WARREN COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER
PATRICIA TATICH, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT, SUNY ADIRONDACK
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.
MICHAEL BITTEL, PRESIDENT/CEO, ADIRONDACK REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
DAVID WOLFF - RESIDENT OF SARANAC LAKE
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
ADMINISTRATION
SCOTT SOPCZYK - TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, GREATER GLENS FALLS
TRANSIT
JOANNE CONLEY, DIRECTOR OF TOURISM
GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CVB
FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL
SIMPSON
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 21, 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://warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2020/economic/>

Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed". All of the Committee members in attendance participated via video or teleconference.

Mr. Wild called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee to order at 12:24 p.m.

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

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to those in attendance and those participating virtually accessed the agenda via the Warren County website; a copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.

Mr. Wild acknowledged there was no action to take at today's meeting, but noted he had prepared an outline for discussion to provide updates on the status of the economy and efforts to minimize the impact. A lengthy review of Mr. Wild's outline, provided in the agenda packet, commenced, including updates, information and observations from: Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Administrator*, on the 2020 Census and the County's COVID-19 Hub; Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, on operations and higher education measures at SUNY Adirondack; Ed Bartholomew, *President, Economic Development Corporation (EDC)*, on economic development matters; Michael Bittel, *President/CEO, Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce (ARCC)*, who provided updates from the ARCC; David Wolff, *Saranac Lake Resident*, who provided information on broadband extension capabilities and alerted the Committee to the efforts of Spectrum (*Charter*) to seek a waiver from the FCC (*Federal Communications Commission*) that would allow them to avoid requirements for building out service in areas for which funding was awarded to them; Liza Ochsendorf, *Director, Employment & Training Administration*, on the efforts of the Employment & Training Administration to assist workers; Scott Sopczyk, *Transportation Director, Greater Glens Falls Transit*, on the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak which had caused the suspension of bus transportation and the efforts underway to re-open the bus lines; Joanne Conley, *Warren County Tourism Director*, and Gina Mintzer, *Executive Director, Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB*, provided updates on tourism and promotion efforts and plans underway for when the area was open to travel again; and Bennet Driscoll, *Chair of the Human Services Committee*, and Christian Hanchett, *Commissioner of the Department of Social Services*, on updates regarding social and human services programs available, including information and outreach relating to food banks.

During Mr. Wolff's presentation, he encouraged the Committee to consider petitioning the FCC to oppose Spectrum's (*Charter*) request for a waiver as this was likely to impact already under-served areas in Warren County. It was the consensus of the Committee for Ms. Braymer, with assistance from Ms. Hogan, to draft a letter based on the verbiage provided by Mr. Wolff opposing Spectrum's waiver request which would need to be submitted that day in order to meet the deadline for consideration; Chairman Thomas agreed to sign the letter for submission.

As the meeting was running quite long, Mr. Wild indicated he would waive the review of any remaining items listed in his outline. Before concluding the meeting, Don Lehman, *Director of Public Relations*, read aloud the public comments submitted through the Warren County YouTube page during the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously, Mr. Wild adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board