

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: JUNE 23, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WILD
HOGAN
LEGETT
BRAYMER
DIAMOND
DICKINSON
MCDEVITT
SEEBER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR MAGOWAN

OTHERS PRESENT:

DR. KRISTINE DUFFY, PRESIDENT, SUNY ADIRONDACK
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS COORDINATOR
PATRICIA TATICH, ASSOCIATE PLANNER
REPRESENTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
JOHN WHEATLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
DRISCOLL
FRASIER
MERLINO
SIMPSON
STROUGH
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the June 23, 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 participated via video or teleconference, aside from Messrs. Diamond and McDevitt who were physically present.

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

Copies of the Employment & Training Administration and Planning & Community Development agendas were distributed to those in attendance and those participating virtually accessed them via the Warren County website; copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan, 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.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, who provided an update on the Fall re-start plan. She informed there had been no notice of a further reduction in State Aid, which meant they would proceed with the budget presented at a previous meeting and would be asking Warren and Washington Counties to adopt a resolution in favor of same at their upcoming joint Committee meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ed Bartholomew, *President of the Economic Growth & Development Corporation (EDC)*, who provided a review of unemployment statistics.

A brief discussion ensued in regards to the unemployment comparison in 2007/2008 to the present situation. Mr. Bartholomew informed Warren County was designated No. 1 out of 500 areas with medical device firms by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, inquired what effect the Visa changes (*H2V's, HF4's, HIV's, J1's, L1's*) President Trump previously announced would have on the local economy and Mr. Bartholomew replied it would have a negative effect on tourism. Mr. Wild inquired how far the Economic Development Corporation was trying to expand supply chains for manufacturing and Mr. Bartholomew replied the issue with expansion was limited warehouse space.

Privilege of the floor was then extended to Liza Ochsendorf, *Director, Employment & Training*, who presented the following requests:

- 1) To re-appoint Caelynn Prylo, Kathy LaFond and Dan Dudley to the Workforce Development Board.

After a lengthy discussion, motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2) To appoint Maureen Grabowski to the Workforce Development Board (*in replacement of Karen Winne who resigned*).

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing to the Information for Discussion/Review portion of the agenda, Ms. Ochsendorf apprised in February 2020 there were 2,500 New York State residents unemployed and in April 2020 there were 9,000 unemployed residents in the Glens Falls/metro area. She informed the focus was on businesses with the most jobs to fill, adding that the Warren County website was highlighting local businesses that needed to fill several positions. She stated the Assembly members were urging the State to release the Summer Youth Employment funds but they had not received an update as to why the funding was not yet released and without these funds the Summer Youth Employment program would not be offered.

A lengthy discussion ensued in regards to the possible loss of Summer Youth Employment funding, following which it was consensus of the Committee for Chairman Thomas to write a letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to the State urging the release of these funds.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who presented a request to amend the agreement with Advokate, LLC to authorize a one-time payment of \$3,960 to re-size display boards and purchase

rights to art work.

Motion was made by Ms. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe apprised over the last year conversation had taken place in regards to the housing market analysis with Local Development Corporation (*LDC*) and Economic Development Corporation (*EDC*), partnering with Warren County acting as the third party providing administrative services. He stated Robert Terwilliger, *First Assistant County Attorney*, was working on the agreement and although he did not have a copy of the agreement he requested the Committee pass a resolution allowing his department to be the primary office working with a consultant and directing the product for the analysis. He stated there was no financial obligation to the County other than staff time.

After a lengthy discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to hold a special meeting to discuss the agreement.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously, Mr. Wild adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board
As transcribed by Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board