

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: JULY 21, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: WILD

HOGAN

LEGETT

BRAYMER

DIAMOND

DICKINSON

MAGOWAN

MCDEVITT

SEEBER

LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

REPRESENTING WARREN COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER

SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS COORDINATOR

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

BRUNO

CONOVER

DRISCOLL

FRASIER

MERLINO

SIMPSON

STROUGH

ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR, VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE

DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

MEGAN SEELEY, NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED ELEMENTARY TEACHER

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the July 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 participated via video or teleconference, aside from Ms. Seeber and Messrs. Diamond and McDevitt who was physically present.

Mr. Wild called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee to order at 9:31 a.m.

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

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

Mr. Wild apprised Mark Behan was working with the Economic Recovery Group primarily with communications

and advertising investments and a sub-committee had been formed and was working on ways to identify measuring effectiveness of money spent, as well as how and what to measure.

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

- 1) To appoint Zachary Moore, *Spruce Hospitality Group*, to the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties Workforce Development Board for the term August 21, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2) To authorize a new contract with Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Education Services to provide youth educational program services for the Workforce Investment & Opportunity Fund (WIOA) youth employment program and prepare youth for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) high school equivalency assessment for the 2019-2020 school year.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Ms. Hogan and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Ochsendorf continued to the Information for Discussion/Review portion of the agenda, apprising the Summer Youth employment program Operation Food Chain had started yesterday with training and safety guidelines in place; however, she noted, the program would typically have forty youth participating and this year there were only twenty. She added there were eleven work sites, adding Warren County was in better shape than other Counties that were hesitant to sign on work sites. She stated unemployment numbers had increased slightly for the State, but were down slightly for our region and she said she would be obtaining numbers for the region, the Capital Region and Warren County shortly. She informed the extra \$600 payment would end on July 26th locally, but it would be ending later in other states. She apprised once the twenty-six weeks of unemployment was reached an extension of up to fifty-two weeks was possible.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Sarah Frankenfeld, *GIS Coordinator*, who provided an update on the 2020 Census, explaining the Census was extended until October 31st with the period of self-response ending this month, but self-response would still be available until the end of October. She stated Enumerators would start visiting households that had not responded August 11th while wearing masks and they would not be permitted to enter inside of homes. She said even though there was focus on encouraging self-response, training classes had started last week for Enumerators at the Queensbury Hotel and would continue during the next phase. She provided maps of response rates for the Committee to view and she briefly discussed the areas that needed improvement with responses. She informed a social media post would go out to all County residents about the in person Enumerator process starting on August 11th which would hopefully prompt those who had not already completed the questionnaire to do so.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who provided an update on expiring grants due to *COVID-19* explaining programs would not be completed within contract time lines and extensions would be necessary. He encouraged Committee members and Board members to have discussions with Assemblyman Stec and Senator Little about those issues.

Mr. Wild stated he had sent an e-mail to the Committee members with a letter Senator Little, Assemblyman Stec and other representatives signed requesting the Governor rescind fees for broadband along state highways. A discussion

ensued following which Ms. Braymer made a motion that she and Ms. Hogan draft a letter and Mr. Wild requested Mr. Simpson also be included in the letter drafting for submission to the Committee for approval to send to the State. Ms. Braymer clarified her motion was to draft a letter as a resolution from the County that they could forward to all of the elected officials. After further discussion it was consensus of the Committee that once a letter was drafted by Ms. Braymer, Ms. Hogan and Mr. Simpson, Chairman Thomas would send the letter.

Mr. Diamond suggested the sub committee of the Economic Recovery Group discuss goals and plans for the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury to help drive the economy in those areas and address the challenges they were facing in the re-opening process, as well as devise a plan to help the community with the hiring challenges they were faced with. Mr. Wild advised he would address the issue at the next task force meeting.

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 10:20 a.m.

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