

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: AUGUST 25, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: WILD

HOGAN

LEGETT

BRAYMER

DICKINSON

MAGOWAN

SEEBER

LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

REPRESENTING WARREN COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR

CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER

FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN

RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS DIAMOND

MCDEVITT

SUPERVISORS BEATY

CONOVER

DRISCOLL

FRASIER

MERLINO

SIMPSON

STROUGH

LEXIE DELUREY, DIRECTOR, REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 25, 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 Supervisor Magowan who was physically present.

Mr. Wild called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee to order at 9:40 a.m.

Copies of the meeting 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 Mr. Dickinson, 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.

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

presented the following requests:

- 1) To appoint Ash Anand, *Lotus Group of Companies*, to the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties Workforce Development Board for the term of September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. *Note: subsequent to the meeting it was determined the expiration date for this appointment would be June 30, 2021 as Mr. Anand was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mike Perez who resigned.*

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 September 18th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2) To amend the 2020 County Budget in the amount of \$693,385.90 to reflect receipt of Federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and TANF funds for the 2020 program year.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Ms. Ochsendorf apprised the Committee of training she had held for her staff in July; she said she had neglected to request approval for the training in advance and now required such authority in order to pay the associated costs.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously to provide the ratifying authority for the training held. Ms. Ochsendorf advised she would submit the proper authorization forms to the Clerk of the Board following the meeting.

Ms. Ochsendorf continued to the Information for Discussion/Review portion of the agenda, apprising the July unemployment numbers for the area were scheduled to be released later in the day. She informed her Office had received authorization from the New York State Department of Labor for a return to 50% staffing levels and she was keeping track of work being completed remotely on a daily basis. She stated she was involved with a hospitality workforce sub-committee, along with other leaders, which was focusing on short/long term hospitality workforce challenges. She indicated her Office had distributed surveys to businesses in an attempt to learn what the workforce challenges and skill needs were. She added another survey was distributed to the public concerning interest in virtual workshops in an effort to provide them to those in the Capital Region. Ms. Ochsendorf stated she was trying to help businesses remain open, adding that local consultants and partners were available to help businesses with continuity plans and remote work, but she realized most businesses could not afford to pay for those resources; she said she was currently working with the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board to hopefully cover the costs to help those businesses stay afloat.

There being no further Employment & Training Administration business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Administrator*, who apprised Chris Belden, *Assistant County Planner*, was present to provide an update on Solar Energy. Mr. Belden advised he and Ms. Frankenfeld coordinated the Warren County Planning group that met on a regular basis to discuss issues impacting land use, with the topic for last month being solar. He said there would be a demand for installing solar energy systems around the State due to policies and programs passed by the State. He added there was a big push by the State to install clean energy and their group would discuss restrictions and installation in areas given the large amount of space necessary for solar systems.

Proceeding with the agenda review, Ms. Frankenfeld reviewed in detail a Powerpoint presentation entitled "Update on Census 2020 Operations and Outreach"; *a copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes.*

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Ms. Hogan requested an update on the status of the Capital Infrastructure Program, and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, replied this had been updated in May or June. Ms. Frankenfeld stated a quick update had taken place and the next phase of the project would be creating subcategories which she had started in the Spring for a web interface; however, she noted, this work had been sidetracked due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She indicated she hoped to complete this work by the end of the year.

Mr. Wild asked Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, to provide a status on the update for the Partnership for Recovery Document and Mr. Lehman replied he had received most of the submissions from those he had contacted, but not from all of the key participants. He stated he could provide a full update at a future meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Ms. Seeber, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously, Mr. Wild adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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