

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: JANUARY 20, 2021

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS HOGAN  
WILD  
FRASIER  
STROUGH  
LEGETT  
GERAGHTY  
MERLINO

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:  
JIM SIPLON, INTERIM PRESIDENT  
LINDA OLDENBURG, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR  
REPRESENTING PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:  
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER  
CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER  
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS COORDINATOR  
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING  
ADMINISTRATION  
RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD  
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER  
DICKINSON  
MAGOWAN  
SHEPLER  
SMITH  
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
TOSHA BROWNELL, COMPUTER HELP DESK TECHNICIAN  
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST  
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Please note, the following contains a summarization of the January 20, 2021 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/2021/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". Supervisors Hogan, Wild, Frasier, Strough, and Leggett participated in the meeting virtually, while Supervisors Geraghty and Merlino were physically present.**

Ms. Hogan called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 11:30 a.m.

Copies of the Planning & Community Development and Employment & Training 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.

Ms. Hogan began the meeting by thanking former Committee Chair Mr. Wild for the excellent work he did last year

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especially with the Economic Recovery Taskforce, apprising she was looking forward to carrying on the partnership. She said she was planning on speaking with the Committee members to establish goals for the Committee the first of which was to support the Public Health Department in any way possible, and the second was to continue to receive and respond to recommendations from the Economic Recovery Taskforce.

Ms. Hogan called for a motion to approve the minutes of the prior Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The requested motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jim Siplon, *Interim President, Warren County EDC*, who stated he wanted to reiterate the role of the Warren County EDC was to continue to attract, grow and support the business community in Warren County. He said in the past year they had helped to coordinate response to COVID-19 and aspects learned through the pandemic included meeting more aggressively for broadband and other infrastructure investments and understanding and managing the migration of professionals relocating to this area to align with economic plans. He apprised conversation had taken place on how to best manage aspects of public and private partnership that had manifested through the Economic Task Force and he said the EDC would like to continue the partnership in the future which he was in the process of coordinating to allow for EDC to become the facilitator of, as well as organizing the meetings he welcomed County participation on. He apprised programs were being launched daily at the State and Federal level which he would like to assist with communication and navigation of. Mr. Siplon provided a brief update on what the Warren County EDC was working on, noting that included the second part of the broadband initiative which would be launched this week, as well as the public survey and speed testing which was expected to last two months in an effort to collect data. He stated a press release and formal announcement would be made with the help of Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, and the EDC would be contacting municipalities, school districts and health facilities to ensure they were aware of and included in the participation. He noted the goal was to obtain 5% of County participation, although he hoped there would be more and he encouraged anyone interested in learning more to contact him. He stated they were also working on a way to measure the economic impact of matters the taskforce worked on, and he had plans to meet with SUNY Adirondack in regards to building a statistically valid and easily understood and maintained scorecard for any economic impacts to use as a reference point for recommendations or decisions. He stated he would continue to engage with investors and developers interested in the area.

Privilege of the floor was then extended to Liza Ochsendorf, *Director, Employment & Training Administration*, who apprised she had two employees who would be attending a virtual training conference through the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals for a youth practitioner learning lab on March 30th.

Continuing, Ms. Ochsendorf stated the current unemployment rate was 5% which did not account for 1,500 individuals not in the workforce at the present time. She apprised there was a partial unemployment claims announcement which started on Monday which allowed for filing of hours worked and not days which was an incentive for individuals to work part-time as they searched for full-time work and also allowed employers to hire part-time employees. She said her staff continued to primarily work remotely and offered most services remotely in addition to virtual workshops monthly. She said they had recently partnered with other capital region career centers on topics to co-facilitate virtual workshops for job seekers. She noted her office continued to focus on barriers to employment such as childcare and transportation. She mentioned she was seeking a way to obtain information on transportation needs and determine the demand for those services to exist such as using the unemployment claim list from New York State to contact Warren County residents and ask about transportation gaps where they lived and their interest in transportation for hospitality jobs for the creation of a work shuttle. Chairwoman Seeber suggested Ms. Ochsendorf work with Mr. Leggett, who was recently appointed to the Transportation Council Board. Ms. Ochsendorf spoke in regards to a bike share program for Warren County and any municipalities adding CDTA and Mobility Cloud who maintained the team that worked on bikes looked at site proposals last week and information

would be forthcoming. She apprised she was launching a hospitality training program called PUSH (*Pathways Up for Success and Hospitality*) training which she was working on with SUNY Adirondack members, local hospitality leaders and Mr. Siplon and would take place in February as a way to recruit workers for hospitality field careers. She said the goal was to provide training in the spring and for the workers to be hired in spring and summer. She said as the training was completed many businesses would be offering automatic job interviews and leaders would encourage enrollment in SUNY Adirondack for a hospitality certificate or degree. She mentioned her office was working with James LaFarr, *Warren County Sheriff*, on the Criminal Justice Reform Law, as well as with the Department of Social Services on the Pathways Program.

Ms. Hogan called for any public comment and Mr. Lehman read aloud those submitted by Andrea Palmer.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who commenced the Planning & Community Development agenda review by presenting the following requests:

- 1) To authorize a grant application for the Community Development Block Grant Program to New York State Office of Community Renewal in an amount to be determined.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- 2) To authorize the closeout of Community Development Block Grant CD74 (*Countryside Adult Home Sewer*) as the project had been completed.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Strough 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.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Coordinator*, who provided a detailed review of the Planning Department's annual report for the year 2020. She noted the main goal for 2021 would be capital projects and continuing to work on infrastructure, find funding where available and applications to grants.

Mr. Geraghty commended the Planning Department for their assistance over the last year with the First Wilderness projects, mapping and the Capital Project List they developed, as it was very helpful. He added they had gone above and beyond for the Town of Warrensburg and he looked forward to working with them in 2021.

Ms. Hogan called for any public comment and Mr. Lehman apprised there was none, but said he would also like to commend the Planning Department for their help with the COVID-19 website.

Mr. LaMothe apprised his department worked in the office for part of 2020, staff returned to work in the office and then he sent them home to work remote. He said he was proud of his staff for completing their work and additional tasks that were assigned to them.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously, Ms. Hogan adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

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