

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: HOGAN
WILD
FRASIER
STROUGH
GERAGHTY
MERLINO

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: LEGGETT

OTHERS PRESENT:

LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
JIM SIPLON, PRESIDENT & CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
REPRESENTING THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT:
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
KEVIN LYNCH, VICE PRESIDENT FOR TECHNICAL OPERATIONS, SLIC NETWORK SOLUTIONS
RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
BRUNO
MAGOWAN
MCDEVITT
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
LEXIE DELUREY, DIRECTOR OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES
JEREMY SCRIME, SENIOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 23, 2021 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

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 Frasier and Merlino were physically present, while Supervisors Hogan, Wild, Strough and Geraghty participated remotely.

Ms. Hogan called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 11:20 a.m.

Copies of the Employment & Training, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and Planning & Community Development agendas were distributed to those in attendance and those participating virtually accessed the agenda via the Warren County website; *copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.*

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Strough 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*, who informed unemployment was at 6% and fraud was still an issue. She spoke of additional training, year round programs, and online training that was supplemental. She explained businesses were enrolled in a program to aid youth with finding employment and she wanted more businesses to be involved. Ms. Hogan inquired what they could do to help and Ms. Ochsendorf replied they could encourage more Warren County business to participate. She explained she was looking to get more young teens, age 14 and up, to become engaged into the work force. She notified she was working with school districts to have in person or virtual workshops, expressing it was critical for the youth to be engaged due to the current pandemic. She said she worked with Human Resources on County programs and training for employees to upscale employment. She apprised she had an intern who was a college graduate to help with technology and he provided aid to employee individuals. Mr. Geraghty stated the Town of Warrensburg had trouble filling lifeguard positions and he asked if Ms. Ochsendorf could help and Ms. Ochsendorf replied she would help spread the word.

There being no further Employment & Training business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Jim Siplon, *President & CEO, EDC*, who presented a Power point Presentation entitled “EDC Update 23 February 2021”, which he reviewed in detail. *A copy of the presentation is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Next, Ms. Hogan introduced Kevin Lynch, *Vice President for Technical Operations, SLIC Network Solutions*, who was in attendance to speak about the difficulties that faced his broadband company. Mr. Lynch informed his broadband company SLIC Network Solutions. He informed SLIC had recently participated in the FCC auction called “World Digital Opportunities Fund” which sought federal dollars to continue broadband expansion. He said SLIC had applied for broadband in a large portion of Warren County, but had lost to Frontier, who received grant funds to bring broadband to Warren County and parts of Saratoga County. He advised he would be working in the Town of Thurman to bring broadband to over 500 properties. He said they were a rural company, explaining in 2017 fiberoptic cable was not taxable and in 2020 a court ruling made it taxable which impacted his business by 70%, adding taxes and special franchises were set by the State. He said they had assessments that exceed their bottom line depending on what area they were working in. He commented taxes should be in line with the economic impact, informing NYS DOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) fees were a real problem for them which did not make it worth putting broadband in a place where there were less than 7 properties within a mile. He said there was a lot of competition for broadband. Mr. Strough stated there was a blurred line between cable and broadband companies. Mr. Wild asked if this could be moved to the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee and Ms. Hogan agreed and asked Mr. Lynch to participate.

There being no further broadband discussion, privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who presented a request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$1,484 for the purchase of Town posters.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe introduced a request to express appreciation to Mannix Marketing for the donation of \$1,000 printing credit with Glens Falls Printing to the Planning Department.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 19, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe then introduced a request to fill the vacant position of Assistant County Planner, *Annual Salary \$61,855*, due to resignation.

A brief discussion ensued with regard to the vacancy, following which, a motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Concluding his agenda review, Mr. LaMothe spoke regarding a grant application for Pottersville Water and North Creek Sewer, notifying they were also working on a grant for Countryside Adult Home.

Ms. Hogan asked if there were any public comments and Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, replied in the negative.

As there was no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strough and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Ms. Hogan adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist