

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: MARCH 23, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: HOGAN
FRASIER
WILD
STROUGH
LEGGETT
GERAGHTY
MERLINO

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT:
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
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 DRISCOLL
MAGOWAN
SMITH
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TOSHA BROWNELL, HELP DESK TECHNICIAN
ANDREA DEEPE, CEO, WARREN WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF
MENTAL HEALTH
SCOTT SOPCZYK, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, GREATER GLENS FALLS
TRANSIT
BRIAN BEAROR, PRESIDENT/CEO, YMCA GREATER GLENS FALLS AREA
MICHAEL BITTEL, PRESIDENT/CEO, ADIRONDACK REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 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, Geraghty and Merlino were physically present, while Supervisors Hogan, Wild, Strough and Leggett participated remotely.

Ms. Hogan called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 11:36 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, 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.

Ms. Hogan announced there were special guests attending today's meeting. She informed months prior she had a conversation with Mrs. Frasier regarding how her community functioned during which Mrs. Frasier recalled work that was performed by volunteers. Ms. Hogan spoke regarding moving forward with economic recovery and how to

use the stimulus money each Town received. She advised it was important to hear how some area not-for-profits maximized the money they received and what the economic payback was.

Ms. Hogan introduced Michael Bittel, *President/CEO, Adirondack Chamber of Commerce*, who indicated he was excited to hear from Andrea Deepe, *CEO, Warren Washington Association of Mental Health*, and Brian Bearor, *President and CEO YMCA Greater Glens Falls Area*, and the impact they had in the community and on individuals. He said the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce had accounts with eighty different not-for-profits.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Deepe, who indicated she was very compassionate about the mission at Warren Washington Association of Mental Health which was to improve the quality of life for those diagnosed with mental health issues. She stated the goal was to meet individuals and listen to them, embrace them and try to use all their knowledge to try to assist each and everyone. She explained they met individuals when they were in their acute phase where they were just coming out of a psychiatric unit or hospital, reporting there was a large number of the community that was homeless who they also tried to help. She expressed there was also a lot of "Asset Limited Restrained, but Employed" individuals in the community who earned above the Federal poverty level, but could not afford the bare bones household budget. She conveyed they provided services in several locations and served over 1,200 individuals with a staff of 125, apprising they had care and case management services to link individuals with other services along with support services. She conveyed these services were provided for individuals to grow and thrive. Mr. Bittel informed the Warren Washington Association of Mental Health serviced individuals who were employed and who needed help, advising mental health challenges had increased to 96% over the past year. He advised the YMCA also provided a great service.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Bearor who provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding what programs were available at the YMCA. He indicated they provided half a million dollars in scholarships a year. Mr. Bittel advised the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce had a group that met with not-for-profit organizations which were vital to the area.

Continuing with a review of the Employment & Training Administration agenda, Liza Ochsendorf, *Director, Employment & Training Administration*, presented a request to authorize an agreement with Greater Glens Falls Transit to expand the CDPHP (*Capital District Physician Health Plan*) Cycle Bike Share Program to Warren County at a cost of \$25,000 per year, which included Warren County's local share of \$10,000; she informed there was a lot of interest from supporters. Mr. Leggett apprised this was a great tie in from what they just heard from Ms. Deepe, Mr. Bearor and Mr. Bittle. Mr. Leggett inquired how many bikes would be used and Ms. Ochsendorf replied they would start with twenty bikes. Mr. Wild stated \$10,000 was not easy to acquire and he questioned if there would be a continued cost to the County and Ms. Ochsendorf answered this was the pilot year and there were \$25,000 in operating costs. She added the MOU (*Memorandum of Understanding*) had to be renewed yearly and could be negotiated. Mr. Strough inquired if the funding had been secured and Ms. Ochsendorf replied in the negative. She informed HHHN (*Hudson Headwaters Health Network*) had provided \$5,000, the Queensbury Hotel had provided \$2,500 and the Fort William Henry had provided \$2,500; she noted she was still discussing the matter with the private sector and the City of Glens Falls. She said the goal was to launch the program in May. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, informed this was an expense that fell under the COVID-19 stimulus, and he suggested they use funds from the Contingent account and return them when the County received the stimulus funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Wild 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.*

There being no further Employment & Training Administration business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who presented a request to set a Public Hearing related to Community

Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. He informed the CARES Act had opened a round of funding that would be awarded on a first come first serve basis and it closed in August. He suggested holding a Public Hearing at the April 16th Board Meeting. Ms. Hogan inquired what was necessary to set the public hearing for April 16th and Mr. Moore responded they needed to hold a Special Board Meeting. Mr. LaMothe said the longer they wait the less money would be available. A brief conversation ensued, during which Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, noted a Special Board Meeting could be held on April 1st the same day as the upcoming Personnel, Administration & Higher Education and Finance Committee meetings, to authorize the Public Hearing April 16th, the date of the regular Board Meeting. In these discussions Chairwoman Seeber agreed to call a Special Board Meeting on April 1st, as suggested.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the Special Board Meeting to be scheduled for April 1st. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Merlino exited the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Next, Mr. LaMothe introduced a request to authorize a grant application to NYS (*New York State*) Housing Trust Act for CDBG program funding available under the CARES Act in an amount to be determined for specific projects that met the criteria. Mr. Leggett inquired if there were any projects that qualified for the funding and Mr. LaMothe replied he had a quote of \$36,000 to update the HVAC (*Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning*) system due to COVID-19.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 16th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Administrator*, who spoke regarding the Capital Improvement Plan. She mentioned she had worked with other Planning staff on new Zoning Maps, APA (*Adirondack Park Agency*) Land Classification Maps and Sewer Maps which they had not had a chance to discuss. She informed the Capital Improvement Plan would be budgeted for five years. She displayed and reviewed a web page she had created for the Capital Improvement Plan and answered question posed by the Committee.

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 Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously, Ms. Hogan adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist