

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: APRIL 20, 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
ETHAN GADDY, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
ADMINISTRATION
JIM SIPLON, PRESIDENT & CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
LESLIE KARASIN, NORTHERN FOREST CENTER
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
SHEPLER
SMITH
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 20, 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". All of the Committee members were physically present aside from Supervisor Strough who participated remotely.

Ms. Hogan called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 12:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Wild 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 presented to Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, who presented a request to amend Resolution 466 of 2020, *Appointing and Re-appointing Members of the Climate Smart Task Force for the Year 2021*, to replace Chris Belden with Ethan Geddy, *Assistant County Planner*, and to replace Amelia Drexel with Ann Marie Mason, *Director, Office of Emergency Services*. During discussion on this item, it was also pointed out that the entry for the Chair-Environmental Concerns Committee reflected "To be determined" and it was suggested that this be changed to "Ex-Officio."

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend Resolution No. 466 of 2020 as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21, 2021 Board

Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. LaMothe introduced a request to authorize an agreement with the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board for the GIS Administrator within the Planning Department to provide GIS Services for the creation of a data dashboard for economic recovery. He explained the LCLGRP would be charged for services at the GIS Administrator's hourly rate, with a total cost not to exceed \$5,000, and the work would be completed no later than December 31, 2021.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Mr. LaMothe introduced a request to authorize a grant agreement with the NYS (*New York State*) Environmental Facilities Corporation to accept \$340,000 in funding to introduce a septic replacement program for Lake George. He said individuals could receive funds for septic replacement in the amount of \$10,000 or 50% of the cost for replacement. He apprised multiple Departments were involved in applying for this grant. Regarding the administration cost, he informed the County was responsible for \$10,000 a year for five years. Mr. Wild reported the WWIDA (*Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency*) had funds for homeowners to help cover the costs. Mr. LaMothe remarked he wanted to speak to the State to extend the law to tributaries, as well. He noted this was a reimbursement program where the homeowner received reimbursement from the County and the County would receive reimbursement from the State. Mr. Strough commented that the Fund for Lake George had partnered with the Adirondack Trust Company and Glens Falls National Bank for low interest loans. He said there had been improved water quality because of upgraded septic systems.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe spoke regarding Discussion Item No. 1, introducing the new Assistant County Planner, Ethan Gaddy.

Regarding Discussion Item No. 2, Mr. LaMothe informed he would discuss this next month.

Moving along to the Referral/Pending Item portion of the agenda, Mr. Gaddy informed the County had received a \$5,000 designation award from NYSERDA (*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority*), adding the grant was to be used for clean energy. He explained the County could use NYSERDA for a Type 1 audit or NYPA (*New York Power Authority*) for a Phase 2 audit which would provide a more detailed audit and all that was required was to send a letter of support.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to authorize the Chair of the Board to sign a letter to NYSERDA asserting that Warren County would accept \$5,000 in grant funding to be used to conduct an energy audit of County Buildings and the necessary resolution was approved for the May 21, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Leggett spoke regarding the Common Ground Alliance, advising their purpose was to attract individuals to move to the Adirondacks. He stated Leslie Karasin, *from the Norther Forest Center*, was in attendance to speak about ways to attract individuals to the Adirondacks. Ms. Karasin indicated she would refrain from showing slides for the sake of time. She informed she was located in Saranac Lake, indicating she sent a link through Zoom with the strategy, *a copy of the strategy is on file with the minutes.* She noted individuals could sign up for a monthly newsletter, informing there would be an Infinity Group meeting about housing. Mr. Leggett notified there was a guide for a planning process. Mr. Strough

reported there were three items of concern which were employment, affordable housing and broadband.

Concluding the Planning & Community Development agenda review, Mr. LaMothe apprised of Resolution No. 231 of 1991 which required that the Chair of the Board designate the Fair Housing Officer; he advised Patricia Tatich serve in this role but had not been formally designated. Chairwoman Seeber questioned whether a formal resolution of appointment was necessary and Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board stated the Committee could choose to approve a resolution or the Chairwoman could simply state her designation for the record. It was the consensus of the Committee to accept the designation by the Chairwoman, of Patricia Tatich for this position and to have it reflect in the meeting minutes.

There being no further Planning & Community Development business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Liza Ochsendorf, *Director, Employment & Training Administration*, who presented a request for authorization of a new contract with BOCES (*Board of Cooperative Educational Services*) for employment and training services for the Summer Youth Employment Program administered through Operation Food Chain, to commence June 28, 2021 and terminate August 20, 2021, in the amount not to exceed \$15,078.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Ochsendorf then introduced a request for authorization of temporary positions for employment and training services. She informed the request included summer youth positions and an annual document to pay temporary employees and training. Mr. Leggett asked if they were going forward with the work sites program and Ms. Ochsendorf replied affirmatively, adding she had received twenty-one applications. Ms. Hogan asked if she anticipated receiving additional funding and Ms. Ochsendorf replied she expected to receive the same amount as last year, but she was hopefully for additional funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Concluding her agenda review, Ms. Ochsendorf mentioned she was moving forward with two job fairs, working on recruiting and the Bike Share Program.

There being no further Employment & Training business to discuss, privilege of the floor was extended to Jim Siplon, *President & CEO, Economic Development Corporation*, 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.*

As there was no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously, Ms. Hogan adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist