

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: MARCH 4, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
MONROE
WOOD
STROUGH

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR BEATY

OTHERS PRESENT:

WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BROCK
MCDEVITT
MERLINO
SIMPSON
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 11:01 a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, 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 Wayne LaMothe, County Planner, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. LaMothe said the first matter was a pending item pertaining to the elimination of E-911 addressing fees which had been discussed in detail at the previous Committee meeting. He reminded the Committee members that Sara Frankenfeld, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Coordinator, had indicated there were over 4,000 parcels in Warren County which required the assignment of an E-911 address. He advised it was impractical to charge the homeowners a fee of \$15 per parcel for a service that they did not request. He pointed out that approximately \$1,000 in revenue had been generated by the E-911 addressing fees in 2014 and the elimination of the fee would have little impact on the Departmental budget. Mr. Taylor recalled at the previous Committee meeting Mr. LaMothe had indicated the cost of assigning the E-911 addresses was greater than the fee charged to do so. Mr. LaMothe said the County Attorney was asked to review Local Law No. 3 of 2011 to determine the best way to proceed. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, recommended the Committee approve the elimination of the E-911 addressing fees and authorize the County Attorney to draft a resolution or amendment to the local law, as necessary.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution or amendment to Local Law No. 3 of 2011 to remove the E-911 addressing fees, as deemed appropriate by the County Attorney. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting.*

Mr. LaMothe presented a request to amend the 2015 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$28,203 to reflect the funds necessary for two GIS staffing changes resultant of the Enhanced 911 System. He explained the GIS Technician position was a

temporary 3 month position; however, he continued, he wanted to extend the position to a temporary 15 month position (to June 1, 2016) as a result of the Hazard Mitigation grant award. He said they would use revenue from the Hazard Mitigation grant to offset the salary for the GIS Technician position. He stated it was preferable for the County to complete the necessary work for the Enhanced 911 System rather than contracting it out because it would result in a better product and the data would be available within the Department. He commented the second staffing change was to increase the hours of the GIS Coordinator from not to exceed 20 hours per week to not to exceed 28 hours per week. He said he had discussed the matter with Trish Nenninger, Personnel Officer, who had indicated she would work out the necessary details before the Personnel Committee meeting on March 11, 2015. Mr. Dusek clarified that the Hazard Mitigation grant was being administered by the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and was 75% reimbursable. He stated that Jim Lieberum, District Manager of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), were hopeful that their services could be used to offset some of the expense but it was possible these services would not be sufficient. He advised that Mr. LaMothe had indicated approximately \$20,000 would be used for the GIS positions and he wanted to ensure the Committee was aware that a \$5,000 local match would be required. Even if the County was able to offset the funds, Mr. Dusek continued, it may not be within the Planning & Community Development Departmental budget. He presented the possibility that at the end of 2015, the Planning & Community Development Department budget could have a shortfall whereas another Department, such as the OES may show an overage as a result. He informed that \$10,000 had been budgeted for the local match for this grant for both 2015 and 2016.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2015 County budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. LaMothe requested to increase the hours for the GIS Coordinator position from not to exceed 20 hours per week to not to exceed 28 hours per week due to the increased workload; and to extend the temporary GIS Technician position from 3 months to 15 months as a result of a grant award; thereby amending the Department's Table of Organization.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the Department's Table of Organization as outlined above and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Pertaining to the pending items, Mr. Taylor said this item had been discussed and acted upon at the beginning of the Committee meeting. Mr. LaMothe informed a public meeting for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Program was tentatively scheduled for March 25, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Lake Luzerne Senior Center to discuss the update to the Action Plan as required by New York State. He added the public meeting was subject to approval of the draft plan by New York State and he mentioned the possibility the meeting might be postponed for one week if that approval was not received in time. He said the grant award which was funding the update to the plan would expire at the end of June and the public meeting was one of the last steps required in the process. He noted the last time the Action Plan had been updated was in 2004 and its purpose was to identify all of the projects in the plan in order to seek grant funding. Mr. Merlino asked if it would be possible to hold the public meeting from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. due to a scheduling conflict at the Lake Luzerne Senior Center and Mr. LaMothe replied affirmatively.

Ms. Wood advised she had been working with Patricia Tatich, Associate Planner, to close out the culvert and storm grant received by the Towns of Bolton and Thurman and administered by Warren County. She said Ms. Tatich had requested that she update the Committee on the status, as follows:

- ▶ the original grant award was \$339,062 for the projects in each Town;
- ▶ most of the paperwork had been completed;
- ▶ they were in the process of applying for a waiver pertaining to the Women and Minority Owned Business requirements; and
- ▶ another project had been included in the funding award but had not actually been funded which had caused some confusion that was being resolved and it might be necessary to request a reduction in the grant award as a result.

Mr. Monroe entered the Committee meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Mr. LaMothe advised there had been no administrative funds included in the culvert and storm grant award and the Planning & Community Development Department had been absorbing the costs associated with the administration of this award. He informed there had been 4 separate representatives from the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) for this grant award and each time a new representative was assigned it was necessary to explain the project in detail. He said he had submitted the Women and Minority Owned Business waiver in June of 2014 and because the representative who had received it had retired, the paperwork was lost, requiring re-submission. He explained there was \$14,000 to \$15,000 included in the grant which was the New York State offset to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funding. Because the FEMA funding was never awarded, he continued, they were unsure what to do with the funds. He said a letter had been received, signed and returned acknowledging receipt of the funds and for the last 3 years they had been trying to determine what the funds were for. Mr. LaMothe stated the Towns of Bolton and Thurman had been very gracious about holding onto the expenditures they incurred. He said he wanted to allocate at least half of the funding to the Towns of Bolton and Thurman because he was sure at least that amount would be reimbursed. He added when final reimbursement was received from the State, the County would reimburse the remainder of the expenditures to the Towns.

At the Support Services Committee meeting held earlier that day, Ms. Wood recalled, the Board of Elections (BOE) had made some positive comments regarding the GIS Services of the Planning & Community Development Department and their assistance with the redistricting project. She said the comments had been nice to hear and she requested Mr. LaMothe to ensure that Ms. Frankenfeld was informed of the compliments. Mr. LaMothe commented that the Department had been assisting with the redistricting project which was significant and time consuming but they were glad to help.

Chairman Geraghty entered the Committee meeting at 11:13 a.m.

This concluded the Planning & Community Development portion of the Committee meeting and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) portion commenced at 11:14 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ed Bartholomew, President of the EDC, who reported the opening class of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Job Training Course had commenced earlier that morning. He informed there were 23 enrollees of which 17 were Warren County residents, 5 were Washington County residents and 1 was a Saratoga County resident. He informed the EPA Job Training consisted of the following:

- ▶ Basic Math and Chemistry Course (refresher course);
- ▶ HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operation and Emergency Response) Course (40 hours);
- ▶ EPA Lead Program (16 hours);

- ▶ OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Construction and Confined Space Course (10 hours);
- ▶ Mold Abatement Course (10 hours);
- ▶ Fork Lift, Boom Lift and Scissor Lift Training;
- ▶ Asbestos Removal Course (40 hours);
- ▶ First Aid Training; and
- ▶ Life Skills Training.

Mr. Bartholomew informed the Life Skills Training was provided with the cooperation of the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) and the Employment & Training Administration (ETA) and included the creation of resumes and preparation for interviews. He pointed out all of the enrollees who completed the job training would be issued certificates of completion. He said 10 of the 25 graduates from the first EPA Job Training Course had been hired. He explained the EDC worked with the NYSDOL to find employment for the graduates. He stated the graduates who had obtained employment were working at businesses, such as Finch Paper, Irving Tissue, Ace Hardware, etc. Mr. Taylor said he had read in the newspaper that there had been 60 applicants for the second round of training and he asked how that compared to the first round. Mr. Bartholomew responded there had been more applicants for the first round of job training and he noted there would be a third round of training in the Spring. He added for a class of more than 25 students it would be necessary to have additional instructors and the amount of grant funding was limited; however, he continued, the EDC intended to apply for another round of EPA funding to continue the program. He commented that Mr. Taylor and Thom Randall, of the *Adirondack Journal*, had attended the first graduation ceremony. Mr. Bartholomew informed that Mr. Randall had conducted a survey of the attendees to determine where they were from; he asked how many had been from the northern part of Warren County and Mr. Randall replied approximately 5. Mr. Bartholomew thanked Mr. Randall for the survey which had shown a good representation of the Towns in Warren County.

Pertaining to Governor Cuomo's proposed \$1.5 billion in funding, Mr. Bartholomew said the concept had been to pattern the grant after the Buffalo experience and 3 of the 7 New York State Regional Councils would receive \$500 million each. He said the proposed \$1.5 billion in grant funding was tied into the New York State budget and the program would require the approval of the State legislature. He informed the regulations for the grant program were due later this month and it was not clear if the program would remain as presented or if there would be modifications. He explained this grant program would not replace the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Program for bridges, roads and infrastructure because this program would look for highly innovative projects. He presented examples of the projects, such as new nano-technology businesses similar to Global Foundries. He explained there would only be 4 to 5 weeks to develop a project to be presented and the EDC hoped to get further clarification in order to proceed with an application. He said the EDC and Warren County would work collectively on developing a project which would be submitted to the Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) which would in turn accept, deny or modify the project to be submitted as part of their application.

Mr. Bartholomew informed that the Joint Warren and Washington Counties Loan Fund would commence next month and would be administered by EDC. He explained this was a \$250,000 State grant and 4 banks were participating in the program for a total of \$250,000, as follows: Glens Falls National Bank & Trust; NBT Bank; Adirondack Trust; and Ballston Spa National Bank. He added the banks were contributing towards the Loan Fund which would have a portfolio of \$500,000 in addition to the funds contributed by the LDC (Local Development Corporation). He said they were reaching final agreements with Washington County, the banks and the New York State Business Development Corporation.

Mr. Bartholomew distributed flyers to the Committee members and announced upcoming events, as follows:

- ▶ EDC Annual Ski Day on Friday March 13th at Gore Mountain Ski Resort with a buffet luncheon; *a copy of the flyer is on file with the minutes*; and
- ▶ EDC Warren County Night with the Flames hockey event on March 27th at the Glens Falls Civic Center; *a copy of the flyer is on file with the minutes*.

Mr. Bartholomew displayed the Town of Thurman Poster created by the Tourism Department and commented that the Old Fashioned Maple Sugar Party would be held on March 14th to kickoff the Thurman Maple Days which would be held on the weekends of March 14-15th; March 21st-22nd; and March 28th-29th. Ms. Wood stated the Old Fashioned Maple Sugar Party would be held at the Thurman Town Hall and she would be waiting tables at the event. She added the event started at 4:00 p.m. and she recommended people come early because the line would be long. Mr. Bartholomew apprised the EDC tried to actively promote events within Warren County.

Mr. Bartholomew reminded the Committee members that last year the EDC had recognized the local paper industry including Finch Paper, Irving Tissue, SCA Tissue, Rozell Industries, Miller Mechanical, and the loggers and truckers from the north country. He commented the EDC had worked with Finch Paper on their \$20 million modernization facility in the City of Glens Falls and as a result a \$1 million grant award was received. He noted the City of Glens Falls Planning Board had recently approved the \$20 million modernization and expansion project. Mr. Bartholomew informed this year the EDC would recognize the partnership and collaboration between the Glens Falls Hospital and Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN) for their contributions in the health field. He commented that the Glens Falls Hospital and HHHN together provided about 3,600 jobs in the County. He said a presentation had been given to the City of Glens Falls Planning Board last night pertaining to the \$25 million Bonacio Galesi project which would include a 145,000 square foot complex located by Glens Falls Hospital offering 90 apartments and about 40,000 square feet of retail office space. He said Just Beverage would make their initial presentation to the Town of Queensbury Planning Board on Tuesday, March 10th. phonetically

Finally, Mr. Bartholomew announced the EDC was working with the Peckham family to have the Town of Chester selected as 1 of 5 sites in New York State for the manufacturing of medical marijuana. He said the Peckham family planned to use a 14,000 square foot building and the initiative would generate some high paying jobs. He explained the operation would require facilities to grow, manufacture and distribute the medical marijuana. He added the license would allow for up to 4 dispensaries and Warren County would receive 22.5% of the tax revenues from the sale of the medical marijuana. Mr. Bartholomew stated there was a lot of competition for the 5 licenses for medical marijuana operations and the process would be similar to that of the casino licenses. He advised the medical marijuana operations would be strictly governed and he added the regulations for this were about 118 pages. He mentioned there were only about 1,900 people in New York State who were given a prescription for the use of medical marijuana.

Mr. Monroe apprised that Amy, Hilary and Keeley Peckham had given a presentation to the Chester Town Board on Monday, March 2nd which was attended by about 25 to 30 people who were all in favor of the initiative. He said the Peckhams had told stories about family members who had conditions or diseases which were helped by the use of marijuana. He mentioned the legislation had a list of the conditions and diseases which would qualify for a medical marijuana prescription, such as cancer, Lou Gehrig's Disease, epilepsy, etc. He said medical marijuana could be a great help to people living with these conditions and diseases as it would help to control their pain, nausea and muscle spasms. Mr. Monroe explained all of the growing of the medical marijuana would take place

indoors and would be hydroponic. He further explained the marijuana would be processed into a cannabis oil and made into pills and tinctures. He added the medical marijuana would not be sold in smokable form or as foods and there were regulations regarding the security of the facilities. He stated there was a tight time line because the 5 successful candidates were required to produce the first batch of medical marijuana by January of 2016. He said the State would need to select the 5 candidates by July in order for them to meet the time line. He noted the property in question contained a large horse barn which was a short distance from the Chester Industrial Park. Mr. Monroe opined this was a product which would help a lot of people and the initiative would create 25-30 jobs in the Town of Chester. He pointed out there was a 7% excise tax on the growing of medical marijuana and 22.5% of that tax would be allocated to Warren County. He added if one or more dispensaries were opened to sell the medical marijuana it would result in additional tax revenue for the County. He advised he would like to invite the Peckham family to the March 20, 2015 Board meeting to discuss the matter with the Board of Supervisors. He reiterated the concept had been well received in the Town of Chester and the initiative would create jobs and tax revenue for the County.

Mr. Taylor commented that any new drug was required to go through the USFDA (United States Food and Drug Administration) testing and approval process and he asked if another source of control would be established to govern medical marijuana manufacturing. Mr. Monroe said he was unsure of the answer; however, he pointed out, the facility would employ chemical engineers and would include a testing and approval program. Mr. Bartholomew stated the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) was in charge of issuing all of the permits and overseeing the process including the manufacturing. He said there may be some USFDA involvement but it would be rather limited because each of the States that were approving the use of medical marijuana were doing so outside of the scope of the Federal government. Mr. Monroe said the manufacturers of and patients receiving medical marijuana would need to be certified and only a 30 day supply would be prescribed which must be kept in the original packaging. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Bartholomew stated it would be helpful for the application if the County showed support of the initiative. He mentioned the Peckham family had indicated they would not pursue the manufacture of medical marijuana if there was opposition to the project from the Town of Chester or Warren County. He said some of the competing applications were in the process of garnering the support of their Towns and Counties or had already obtained support.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution in support of the application submitted by Amy, Hilary and Keeley Peckham (Etain) to obtain 1 of 5 licenses that would be issued in New York State to build a medical marijuana operation in the Town of Chester. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 20, 2015 Board meeting.*

A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Ms. Wood and seconded by Mr. Strough, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist