

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: TAYLOR
MONROE
WOOD
BEATY
STROUGH

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:
ED BARTHOLOMEW, PRESIDENT
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS KENNY
MERLINO
SIMPSON
THOMAS
WESTCOTT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
MOLLY GANOTES, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Taylor called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 10:00a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Beaty 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 presented a request to establish Capital Fund H363.9550 208, Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund 2015, in the amount of \$29,171, in order to develop procedures to provide address point information, along with information regarding truss-roofed structures. He informed grant funds would also be used for consultant services to develop an Android/iOS application that would provide information to First Responders via an app.

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

Mr. LaMothe presented a request for a new contract with Mohawk Valley GIS, in the amount of \$9,975, for the purpose of developing an Android/iOS application to commence January 1, 2016 and terminate July 2016.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Mohawk Valley GIS as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 20, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Next, Mr. LaMothe proposed a request for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$5,500 from Budget Code A.8029 470, Contract to Budget Code A.9950 910, Transfers.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

This concluded the Planning & Community Department portion and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) portion of the meeting commenced at 10:03 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ed Bartholomew, President of the EDC, who indicated the EDC had been coordinating a Department of State Corporative Grant with the City of Glens Falls, the Town of Queensbury, the Glens Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Washington County Sewer District No. 2, and the Towns of Moreau and Kingsbury. He indicated the purpose of the grant was to examine the governance of the sewage treatment plant operations in Glens Falls and Fort Edward as well as establishing a partnership of resources to reduce costs and identify if a united sewer district would be appropriate in the future. He mentioned the goal was to work with the Towns of Queensbury, Moreau and Kingsbury to identify where there could be additional sewage connectivity and the cost. He added the Towns of Kingsbury and Moreau would connect to either the City of Glens Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant or the Fort Edward Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Bartholomew indicated he was looking for a regional answer regarding bio solids disposal for grass clippings, food waste and grease. He said rather than individual towns providing their own solution there should be one facility to manage all of the bio solids. He mentioned eliminating bio solids from the waste stream was very important. He informed he arranged for two Committees; a Technical Committee and a Policy Committee. He added the initial report regarding bio solids would be brought to the Committee in December.

Regarding the Job Training Program, Mr. Bartholomew indicated they had the third and final graduation, where 55 students graduated with numerous certificates; he noted that of the 55 graduates, 22 were employed in a variety of occupations at the following locations: Finch Pruyn, engineering firms, Ace Hardware and Target Corporation. He said he was responsible for tracking the individual graduates for three to five years. He noted the Job Training Program was made possible with the help of Senator Schumer, who assisted with the grant and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who provided the capital, along with Senator Little and Assemblyman Stec who worked locally with the Department of Labor at the Warren County One Stop Center and Chris Hunsinger, Director Employment and Training. Mr. Bartholomew indicated he would be applying for a competitive grant in the fall which required letters of support.

Continuing his report, Mr. Bartholomew apprised he was working in Warren County with Mr. Monroe on an Environmental Risk Assessment Grant along with the City of Saratoga, and the Towns of Corinth, Hadley, Moreau and Hudson Falls for phase 1 and 2 environmental risk assessment concerning abandoned homes, gas stations, propane stations and dry cleaning establishments. He remarked an abandoned house or property which was to be developed by the property owner, or a property that was taken over by a municipality, would be eligible for phase 1 and 2 environmental risk assessment at no cost to property owner or the municipality.

Mr. Bartholomew discussed bringing publicity to the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport; he said he had applied for a Regional Fly-in event, stating they were unsuccessful for next year; however, he said, the Airport was eligible for 2017 and 2018. He mentioned putting together a presentation to present to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association that would be visiting the Airport in January 2016. He remarked he would be working with the Airport, Warren County Tourism Department and the EDC to organize the Fly-in. He expressed the event would bring in pilots, as well as tourists and provide exposure for the Airport and the County.

Next, Mr. Bartholomew informed that the grant for cellular and broadband coverage for rural areas would only provide 20% of the cost and 80% would have to be paid by private individuals or a municipality. He reported Time Warner Cable was being sold to Charter Communications who he said covered moderate density to some rural areas. He stated the service providers offered services to densely populated areas. He stated it would not be worthwhile for service providers to extend service to rural areas if they had to shoulder 80% of the cost to get it there. He apprised the need for cell and broadband coverage in rural areas was vital for economic needs and continued of growth in Warren County, Washington County, northern Saratoga County and the Adirondack Park. Chairman Geraghty asked if broadband would be provided to areas with no coverage and Mr. Bartholomew answered the grant did not provide enough funding for new service to be introduced in undeveloped rural areas. Chairman Geraghty voiced they would speed up service to urban areas and forgo rural areas. Mr. Bartholomew responded that would change. Mr. Monroe stated that was a concern when the program was

announced, and he mentioning a resolution may have been, or should be passed, regarding a 2-tier system for rural and urban areas. Mr. Bartholomew announced the intent was to increase criteria and the percentage of the cost provided from 20% to 50%. He commented there were programs from the Federal Communication Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that could be tied into the State grant. Ms. Wood inquired if there was any discussion regarding amending the new speed requirements and Mr. Bartholomew indicated all of the requirements were being amended by the State. He noted if grant funding was increased to 50% of the cost, service providers would be more inclined to provide service.

Mr. Bartholomew notified of the following upcoming EDC events;

- A mixer event Thursday December 10, 2015 at 33 Glen Street, top floor of the Travelers Insurance building.
- \$32 tickets for two Adirondack Thunder hockey games on December 11, 2015 and February 12, 2016 along with a pre-game reception with light appetizers and a cash bar.

Mr. Monroe reported on the biomass facility for the Town of Chester, indicating a Bill was passed by the NYS Senate and Assembly and was signed by the Governor. He asked Ms. Wood if a location for a biomass facility in Thurman had been identified and Ms. Wood replied in the negative.

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth and Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strough and seconded by Ms. Wood, Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10.29a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes, Legislative Office Specialist