

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING October 3, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Barb Roberts, Dale Weston, Keith Flesher, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell, Peter DeWind

Guests: None

Committee Chair, Legislator Barb Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): Agenda and attachments previously emailed. Ms. Tinney reported the following:

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of September 5, 2023

Legislator Roberts asked for approval of the minutes from the September 5, 2023 committee meeting. Legislator Weston made a motion to accept the September 5, 2023 minutes, seconded by Legislator Flesher. All were in favor.

II. FINANCIAL

The 2023 Year-to-Date Budget Reports were in the committee packets. Ms. Tinney reported the following:

A. 2023

1. Economic Development
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
2. Planning
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
3. Sustainability Management
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – No monthly report.
2. Tioga County Tourism – Monthly report was distributed.
3. Cornell Cooperative Extension – No monthly report.

4. Economic Development- Brittany Woodburn, Deputy Director - In keeping with staff reporting, Ms. Tinney introduced Ms. Woodburn. Ms. Woodburn reported on the following:

Village of Owego Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

- 14 projects administering and overseeing in the village; hoping 6 will be completed by the end of this year.
- 4 should be completed in the spring.
- 4 new projects under the fund are moving along; some are under construction and 1 is nearing completion.
- Aiming to wrap up the entire program by June 2024.

Restore NY

- Fuddy Duddy's/Riverhouse- A contractor has been selected, the design is almost finalized, and the owner is working on finalizing their budget and financing plan. They are looking to start construction after the first of the year; spring at the latest.
- Tioga Trails – This project is using DRI funds as well; focusing on getting that portion underway. RFP's to stabilize and repoint brick are out. Starting biweekly calls with the property owner and environmental testing is in process. Architectural drawings will be the next step.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Neighborhood Depot Project – Construction contract with Mancini has been signed. The groundbreaking ceremony will be on Tuesday, October 10th @ 11:00AM. Ms. Woodburn invited the committee.

Land Bank

- Renewed year two of the grant funding. Phase 1 program: \$100,000.00 to assist with operational expenses.
- Phase 2 program: awarded \$900,000.00 to assist in implementing 9 capital projects.
- 4 demolitions completed in the Village of Owego.
- A developer has been selected to assist with redevelopment of 10 Watson Avenue in Newark Valley; single family home rehab.
- Signed 2 deeds for properties in the Village of Waverly.
- Completed foundation repair on 437 Front St. in Owego.

Other

- The student house project through OACSD on 103 Liberty Street continues. Students worked 8-hour days, Monday through Friday, over the summer and were paid by the school district. Progress will slow down now that school has begun. Looking to acquire vacant properties for a new construction project to include students interested in architecture.
- Land Bank Board decided not to move forward with Providence Housing for the potential 12-unit project on the vacant lots the Land Bank owns on Temple & Liberty Street. They would like to look at a site plan for a possible single home development project in the future.

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – Tioga County as the applicant

- a. CDBG- Racker Neighborhood Depot – Ms. Woodburn talked about earlier.
 - i. Assisting with paperwork
 - ii. Demos complete
 - iii. Groundbreaking – October 10th at 11:00AM; Ms. Tinney encouraged the full Legislature to attend.
- b. Restore NY- River House Confectionery and Mercantile – Ms. Woodburn talked about earlier.
 - i. Assisting with paperwork
- c. NYS Snowmobile- Countywide Phase I & Phase III
 - i. Updated agreement status – The snowmobile club members have come back with questions; the agreement may have to be revised. Mr. Lanning has taken over managing the snowmobile grant process.
- d. ARC- Update Countywide Strategic Plan
 - i. Department Head meetings were held on September 19th.
 - ii. Work Plan updates will be made because of the Department Head meetings.
 - iii. Draft Plan by October – Ms. Jardine will be attending the Legislative Worksession on October 19th to give an update. A draft plan will be brought forward in the near future.
 - iv. Legislative review
Legislative Chair Sauerbrey reported that this strategic plan is very important and is requesting the legislature review the plan stating the consultants need to meet and review the plan with the legislature. Because of this, the date for the draft plan will be pushed out and commented Ms. Jardine is doing a great job bringing this all together.
- e. NYPA- EV charging stations – Ms. Tinney reported Dr. Pratt attended a meeting this morning and mentioned an easement will be required. The project is moving along.
- f. DEC- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program
 - i. Permission to apply for annual funding – Ms. Tinney reminded this committee that part of this funding goes towards Dr. Pratt's salary. The resolution for consideration is listed below.
- g. Restore NY- Tioga Trails – Ms. Woodburn reported on this earlier.
 - i. Assisting with paperwork

2. Active Grants- Tioga County is not the applicant – Ms. Tinney reported there was no assistance provided to municipalities or community organizations this month, therefore there is no spreadsheet in the committee packet.

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Village of Owego – Ms. Woodburn reported on earlier.
 - a. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) administration
2. Village of Waverly – Ms. Tinney attended the following meetings:
 - a. NY Forward- Local Planning Committee had their 4th meeting on September 13th.

- b. The 2nd Public Engagement meeting was held on September 27th. Over 55 people were in attendance and provided input on proposed projects. Next meeting is Thursday, October 5th.
 - 3. Town of Nichols Broadband Project – Free installation has been extended to November 17th. Final numbers from Southern Tier Network will change due to the extension.
- D. Land Bank
 - 1. 4 demos- Village of Owego – Ms. Woodburn reported on earlier.
 - 2. 81 North Ave. - Waiting for a response on the NY Main Street grant funding request.
 - 3. NY Main Street, Candor- Post renovation environmental testing is complete. Ms. Schnabl is working on the final paperwork.
- E. Workforce Development – Mr. Lanning continues to work on the following:
 - 1. Talent Supply Table
 - a. Scheduling individual school meetings
 - b. Career Center Partnerships; in negotiations at present.
BT BOCES and Owego Apalachin School partnership is moving forward. A lease has been signed. BOCES will offer classes for students as well as provide adult education.
- F. Planning – Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
 - 1. Countywide Strategic Plan/ARC grant administration
 - 2. Assisting on the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo planned for November.
 - 3. Providing DRI assistance
 - 4. Town of Newark Valley site plan review- Ms. Jardine has provided assistance with procedures and applications.
 - 5. Attending NYS DEC Transportation Listening Sessions/CCE Tompkins - Next meeting on November 2nd in the Village Waverly. Ms. Jardine's role is to facilitate and attend meetings.
 - 6. Town of Richford Solar Energy Law revision assistance.
- G. Sustainability Management – Dr. Pratt continues to work on the following:
 - 1. Continuing assistance with municipalities on EWaste & Clean-Up events
 - a. Town of Nichols events on October 13th and 14th.
 - b. Village of Waverly/Town of Barton- Events to be held in November.
 - 2. Reducing waste educational videos
 - 3. Improving website to coordinate with NYSDEC changes.
 - 4. Borrow-a-Bin – Successful program; 6 events this year.
 - 5. Compost bins and Soil & Water MOU- Working though financial logistics for this project.
 - 6. Local Solid Waste Management Plan
 - a. Draft plan provided to EDP Legislative Committee for review; no comments so far.
 - b. The draft plan will be submitted to NYSDEC by October 13th.
 - c. Source Separation Local Law is in the committee packet for review. This law requires registration by haulers to track what is being done. Legislator Roberts will introduce the Local Law and there is a resolution to set the public hearing for October 19th. A resolution to adopt the Local Law will be in November.

Not on the agenda, Legislator Flesher asked if we ever do mobile shredding. Ms. Tinney responded that we did not offer this, but sometimes local banks provide this service. Ms. Tinney will ask Dr. Pratt about this and see if she can possibly come up with a shredding event. Legislator Flesher suggested the possibility of a shared event between municipalities due to the cost. Ms. Tinney will follow up.

Also, not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney announced that Taylor has been acquired by Casella. Dr. Pratt attended the open house, adding this might open up possibilities.

H. IDA

- i. Revised Sun East solar PILOT requests:
 - Allow for an increase in the sales tax exemption, and
 - Include mortgage recording tax exemption.

The IDA held a public hearing last week regarding these requests and nobody was in attendance. At the next IDA Board meeting, Wednesday October 4th, they will vote to consider the change to the PILOT Agreement. Real Property Tax schedule will not change.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Economic/Community Development

- 1. Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission- Ms. Jardine is willing to fill the vacancy previously held by Abbey Ortu. Resolution listed below.

B. Presentations – No presentations this month.

C. Land Bank

- 1. Ms. Woodburn attended the NY Land Bank Association Annual Conference.

D. Workforce Development – Mr. Lanning worked on the following:

- 1. Workforce Development Disability Awareness Training event
- 2. Y-ON Coalition - Continued partnership; meeting attended.
- 3. Attended the Greater Binghamton Clean Energy Summit
- 4. Youth Council- Meeting attended; continues to work on partnership.

E. Planning

- 1. 239 Reviews – None this month.

Not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney reported that Ms. Jardine will be working with the Ag and Farmland Protection Board as they investigate a partnership with a land trust on a grant application. This would assist our local farmers in negotiating leases and the generational transfer of farms. A request will be brought forward in November to use funds from the Planning Budget, about \$2,000.00, as a match for the grant request. This will make for a stronger application. More information to follow.

Also, not on the agenda, there is a public hearing scheduled for October 4th regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. By way of social media there seems to be interest, therefore public input is expected.

F. Sustainability Management

- 1. 2023 YTD – The numbers below are corrected from last month:
 - a. Paid to Broome County
 - i. HHW= \$8,849.25

- ii. E-Waste= \$3,684.10
- b. Towns/County (EWaste)= \$345.60

V. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report this month.

VI. RESOLUTIONS (3)

J05-Transfer Funds 2023 Solid Waste Budget

J14-Filing of an Application for DEC Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling (MWRR) Program

J15-Recommend Member (EJardine) to the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission

After reviewing the above resolutions, Ms. Tinney asked this committee for support to move the resolutions forward. The vote to support the above resolutions follows:

Legislator Roberts - yes

Legislator Weston – yes

Legislator Flesher – yes

Legislator Mullen – yes

VII. PROCLAMATIONS- N/A

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Sampson

Administrative Assistant Economic Development & Planning