

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING October 6, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Dale Weston, Ed Hollenbeck, Mike Roberts, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Wendy Walsh

Guests: T Hanson

Legislator Weston called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- Approval of minutes from September 8, 2020 – Legislator Weston asked for approval of minutes from the September 8, 2020 committee meeting. Legislator Hollenbeck made a motion to accept the September 8, 2020 minutes, seconded by Legislator Roberts. All were in favor.

TIOGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER: Wendy Walsh – Ms. Walsh reviewed her monthly report previously emailed.

There was a discussion about road signs; slower traffic for the Amish and the right to farm. Ms. Tinney reported that Ms. Griffiths is working on putting together a table on what signs are permitted on county roads, town roads and state roads. This will be shared with the municipalities so everyone will be aware of what signs can or cannot be posted. Ms. Tinney met with Mr. Hammond and indicated there were two signs that can be put on County roads; horse and buggy signs for the Amish at the beginning and end of the road, and tractor signs that can be put up at tractor crossings. Ms. Tinney mentioned you have to let Mr. Hammond know where you'd like the sign.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): LeeAnn Tinney – Agenda, attachments and highlights previously emailed. Following are the Director's Highlights:

Meetings Attended – Ms. Tinney reported attending the following meetings:

- Southern Tier Network- Broadband study discussed.
- Economic Development Organizations (Southern Tier)

- Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce
 - Annual Golf Tournament
- STREDC
- Regional Council- Executive Committee
- Regional Council Board
 - Work Groups
- Waverly Business Association
- Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association
- Tioga Tells (Tioga Opportunities, Quality of Life)
- Congressman Reed- Women's Task Force
- CCE
- Northern Tier Chamber
 - Business Fair
- Broome Tioga Talent Task Force
- Land Bank Special meeting
- Workforce Investment Board
- Tioga County Local Development Corporation
- Tioga Women Lead
- Developer
- Municipal Visits- none
- Business Visits
 - V&S Galvanizing
 - Midwestern Pet Foods

Presentations

- Susquehanna Chapter NYS Women, Inc.

Department Highlights

- COVID-19
 - Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council (TCERAC)
 - Economic Recovery Strategy Plan – The plan is out for review and comment; close to completion.
 - Child Care – Ms. Woodburn and Ms. Hendrickson put together a survey regarding child care challenges in Tioga County, as well as across the state. The following has come out of that survey
 - Child Care Needs Assessment Report.
 - Press Release has gone out.
 - Jim Ehmke with NewsChannel 34, and WEBO is interviewing Ms. Hendrickson.
 - Morning Times interview with Ms. Woodburn.
 - PlayYard Concepts assistance – A Not for Profit that was not able to open their doors because they were short on funding. We assisted them with a grant and as a result they were able to open their doors for those that need childcare in the Apalachin area.
 - Exploring partnerships to address issues across the state and bring programs to Tioga County.

- Home Based Business Survey – Assisting Tioga Opportunities with collecting data for their survey for those that want to work from home.

Not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney reported on the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Program that the County put in place and asked the IDA to administer on their behalf. These loans were made with the agreement that no payment be required for a period of time. It is now time for repayment, and the agreement was to pay in full or agree to a payment plan. The IDA has reviewed the list of loans and has come back to a recommendation of a 2.5% interest rate with a 3 year repayment term. A list of the loans made was distributed to the committee, showing what the monthly payment would be. Ms. Tinney commented the payments seem a little high and asked the committee for input. They weren't against extending the term, but had questions. Ms. Tinney will look into it further and report back to the committee.

- Hotel/Motel Tax Local Law
 - Resolution to set Pubic Hearing – Presented again today because an error was discovered with some of the definitions. Corrections were made and the resolution is listed below.
 - Resolution to Adopt Local Law – Will be brought forward at November's committee meeting.
- 2020 Census – Ms. Jardine continues to work on this project.
 - Time frame extended from 9/30 to 10/31 for completion.
 - Council of Government presentation.

Legislator Hollenbeck mentioned he was pleased the way Ms. Jardine handled a complaint he received regarding the Census program.
- Village of Owego
 - DRI (19 projects) - A lot of environmental approvals have been completed; projects are moving forward.
 - NY Main Street (6 projects) – Projects are moving forward.
 - Owego Gardens 2 – This project continues to move forward.
 - Village of Owego- A few items are needed to obtain the building permit.
 - DEC Water Quality Certification
 - ❖ Stream relocation was needed to receive the certification. Ms. Tinney thanked Ms. Walsh for her assistance.
 - Financing Approvals – Three or four different funding resources are in the final process.
 - ❖ Land Bank – Entered into a partnership to allow the Land Bank to act as the pass through for tax credits on behalf of Home Leasing. The Land Bank will receive a \$25,000.00 fee for participating.
 - Anticipated Site Work – Hopeful to begin in the middle to end of October.
- Land Bank
 - Home Leasing Agreement – See above.
- RESTORE NY
 - Owego and Waverly projects are progressing.

- Housing
 - Home Leasing – Owego Gardens 2 is moving forward.
 - Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services – Working closely on a project on North Avenue in the Village of Owego.
 - SEPP – A group out of Broome County looking at the Waverly Area for some housing projects.
- State Leads
 - Project Woodwind
 - Project Auto
- Community Development – Ms. Hendrickson continues to work on the following:
 - Nichols Park
 - Grandstand restoration
 - Park Historic Register
 - Waverly Glen Park
 - Women’s Suffrage Committee work
 - Tioga County Non-Profit Network
 - Tioga County Foundation Coalition
- Workforce
 - Implementation Phase- Difficult getting school district interviews at this time; project continues to move forward.
 - Broome Tioga Talent Task Force – Recently participated in this work group.
- Ag – Ms. Griffiths continues to work on the following:
 - 8 Year District Review (2 districts)
 - Owego/Nichols District- Submitted to Ag & Markets
 - Spencer District- Resolution to adopt is listed below.
 - Facebook and Webpage updates/improvements
 - Farm and Garden Newsletter Articles
 - Ag Value Chain Study has begun
 - Steering Committee established
 - Stakeholder Interviews commencing
 - Roadway signage guidance
- Planning – Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
 - 239 Reviews (1)
 - County Case 2020-013- Town of Tioga Site Plan Review, Delaware Solar; TCPB recommended approval
 - BMTS Joint Planning and Policy Committee meeting
 - Richford Drinking Water Working Group
 - ST8 ARC Project Review Committee meeting
 - Active Plans
 - REAP- Tioga County Workforce Pipeline- Implementation
 - Tioga County Economic Recovery Strategic Plan (COVID)
 - Village of Waverly Comprehensive Plan update
 - Child Care needs assessment

- Working with Legislative Chair, Ms. Sauerbrey, on a report to the State regarding Pandemic procedures.
- Grants
 - Potential (10)
 - USDA RDBG- Tioga County Recruitment Tool
 - USDA RDBG- Technical Assistance to Business
 - Town of Richford- USDA Community Facilities, (equipment)
 - Town of Berkshire (TBD)- rec trail
 - Village of Newark Valley- USDA Community Facilities (equipment)
 - Town of Berkshire- DOT TAP funding (sidewalk extension)
 - Northern Tioga Chamber- Community Foundation (facilities improvements)
 - Midwestern Pet Foods- NYS HCR CDBG
 - Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services
 - Early Owego Antique Center- NYSCA Mural Restoration
 - Pending (2)
 - Owego Apalachin Central School District- WDI (workforce)
 - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (historic register nomination)
 - REAP- DOL, WORC – Was not approved.
 - Active (20)
 - Village of Owego- RESTORE NY, Briggs/Award
 - Village of Owego- Downtown Revitalization Initiative
 - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (grandstand restoration)
 - Village of Waverly- NYS Parks, Waverly Glen Park
 - Village of Waverly- RESTORE NY, Twigg - Legislator Mullen heard the restaurant was closed. Ms. Tinney was unaware, will check on the project and report back to Legislator Mullen.
 - Tioga County- Snowmobile Trails
 - REAP- USDA REDI, Strategic Planning (extended 1 year)
 - ❖ Cottage Industry Study (TOI/REAP/TEAM Tioga)
 - REAP- USDA, Public Well (equipment)
 - REAP- Tioga Downs, Workforce Pipeline Implementation
 - TCPDC- Enterprise Community Partners (land bank funds)- X2
 - Village of Owego- Main Street (CFA)
 - Midwestern Pet Foods (CFA)
 - Racker (CFA)
 - IDA- USDA RDBG, Multi-county Broadband Study
 - IDA- USDA RDBG, Ag Value Chain Study
 - Waverly Glen Park- Mildred Faulkner Truman
 - NYS 2020 Census Count Outreach
 - Community Foundation- PlayYard Concepts
 - Town of Richford- SAM, Assemblyman Friend (highway equipment)
 - Completed (0)

2020 Budget

- Economic Development- Tracking
 - Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association Agreement – Ms. Maffei presented the Tourism Budget for 2021 at the last worksession and reported the following:
 - Final Year of Agreement - 2021
 - 2021 Fee reduced from \$60,000 to \$30,000
 - Tourism Office will cover \$10,000 of the \$30,000.00 toward the fee, making the county's commitment \$20,000.00 in 2021.
- Planning- Tracking

Other

- Annual Evaluations Completed

Legislator Weston inquired about the Local Law and how to collect tax from those that rent small cottages or hunting/fishing lodges that offer free lodging, but accept payment for hunting. Ms. Tinney reported that Mr. DeWind, the County Attorney, has incorporated wording to cover those issues, including providing lodging for any other consideration. Legislative Chair Sauerbrey suggested sending out a notice to these places and let them know the law has been written to include them. If they have any questions, direct them to contact Mr. McFadden in the Treasurer's Office.

Resolutions – The following resolutions were presented and agreement was made to move them forward:

- J03 - Schedule Public Hearing Local Law Intro No. C of 2020 Hotel-Motel Tax
- J04 - Designation of Tioga Co. LDC DBA Tioga Co. Tourism as Authorized Tourism Promotion Agency for 2021
- J07 - Adopt Spencer Ag District Eight Year Review 2020
- J09 - Re-Appoint S. Yetter Jr to TCPDC
- J10 - Re-Appoint L. Pelotte to TCPDC
- J11 - Re-Appoint D. Astorina to TCPDC

ADJOURNMENT – With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Sampson
Administrative Assistant to Economic Development & Planning