

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 2, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Richardson, Veitch, Wormuth; David Wickerham, Co. Administrator; George Hodgson, EMC; Shelby Schneider, SEDC; Press

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order.

On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Ms. Wormuth, the minutes of the meeting of February 6th were approved unanimously.

Ms. Schneider requested a **resolution to contract with SEDC to administer the Empire Zone program for 2008**. She stated they contract with Empire Zone Development that administers the program on the State level from July 1 – June 30. We are looking to move forward with the County, she said. Chairman Daly said all dollars have been approved by the Board of Supervisors in the budget. **Mr. Veitch moved to approve this resolution. Mr. Richardson seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Daly said they have been doing a great job on the Empire Zone Program. She said the NYS Empire Development wants to change the rules every day. I think our program is a model program across the State, and I appreciate the efforts of SEDC, she said. She said she serves on the Empire Zone Board, and they have come a long way.

Mr. Hodgson said he received a request from the New York Logger Training requesting permission to use the Saratoga County forest (Kalabus Lot, town of Northumberland) on May 7 and 8 for chainsaw safety and productivity classes. He said there will be 11 persons registered at each workshop. They have provided a liability insurance policy which has been forwarded to the County Attorney. He said there is a spot on this lot where there is low valued poplar that we would like out of there anyway. Chairman Daly asked if this would be taking away from the BOCES kids. Mr. Hodgson said no, we prefer the young students not get into this area for safety purposes. Mr. Richardson asked if this was an annual request. Mr. Hodgson said no, this is the first request. Ms. Wormuth asked if there was description that limits the area. Mr. Hodgson said it will be flagged off. We are looking to get these trees taken down, and it isn't a good place for young students, he stated. Ms.

Wormuth asked if they would be removing the trees. Mr. Hodgson said he didn't have that answer, but poplar rots very quickly. He said he will find this out. If there is any value at all, BOCES selectively cuts and harvest timber out of there, he said. If there is any cleanup involved, BOCES can take care of that.

Chairman Daly asked if the insurance meets our liability standards. Mr. Hodgson said he is making sure it meets the approval of the County Attorney, and the actual instructor also carries insurance, but he doesn't have his actual certificate. He said it is consistent with the coverage we put into our logging contracts. Mr. Wickerham stated the County Attorney should look at this because of the high risk. Mr. Hodgson said the site is currently used by BOCES students under supervision. Ms. Wormuth said there are a lot of things the County owns that not-for-profit groups may want to utilize for training. Mr. Hodgson said any future requests would be reviewed on a case by case basis. **Mr. Richardson moved to authorize permission for New York Logger Training for a 2-day training subject to the approval of the County Attorney. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.** Mr. Wickerham said this may or may not need a resolution because there is no contract involved.

Mr. Hodgson said on Hadley Hill Road in the Town of Day, we have some County woodlots, and there are large red pines that shade the road in the winter time. He said Supervisor Mary Ann Johnson and her Highway Superintendent have requested to clear back 20' of trees from either side of the road. He mentioned this was also done on portions of Jones Rd. in Wilton and Duncan Rd. in Northumberland. He said we have harvesting going on in the Town of Providence, but he does not know if that would meet the time frame for the Town of Day. He said the Town of Day would be willing to do the tree removal if necessary. He said if there was any value to the trees, the revenue would come back to Saratoga County. Mr. Wickerham said Mr. Hodgson should talk to the County Attorney about this, as there are some legal questions on this that should be broached before they go ahead. Mr. Hodgson said it does not have to be done this month. He said he does not have a letter from them, but he can get one from them, and he has not consulted Mark Rider as yet to see if there are legal issues we need to get answers to. He said they also made a request for a 20' cut back on Snow Road that has another County woodlot on it. Chairman Daly said this could tie in to DEC and some other things. We have to be clear on this, he added. Mr. Hodgson said he will be stocking fish up there in early May, and

he will look at these trees. He said he will call Supervisor Johnson and let her know the wheels are turning.

Chairman Daly stated Dennis Brobston, President of SEDC, would have been here today, but he had a scheduling glitch. Unfortunately, he is out of town working today, or he would have been here, she said. We will look forward to that on the first Wednesday of May, she said.

On a motion by Ms. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann