

Economic Development Committee Minutes  
September 7, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors A. Johnson, Kinowski, Richardson, Sausville and Wood; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Nita Chicatelli, Chicatelli Leitch LLC; Jim Angus, SEDC; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the August 2, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Ms. Daly introduced Mrs. Chicatelli, from Chicatelli Leitch LLC to the committee members. She reminded the committee that the IDA was generous enough to extend a grant for the county to be able to work with this firm on several different aspects of Economic Development and help us to achieve our goals.

Mrs. Chicatelli said Saratoga County as well as Supervisors have seen that there is key opportunity to build on the seed of the investment that the county, localities and the State have made, such as Luther Forest, and to now take that investment and capitalize on that. Part of the effort that the County has indicated and brought us on board for is because we have an extensive amount of experience working directly on development of economic development projects at both the State and Local levels. Through experience it has been seen that it really takes a partnership between the communities and a variety of partners in the State and the private sector to drive new development in the region. Taking the seed that all of the Supervisors have planted in the county, we are looking to assist you mainly in terms of your relationships with the State and the private sector. The county has charged us to move forward in two critical areas: one is in assisting the county, FTC and other partners with the development process at the Luther Forest Site. In continuing to build not only the positive relationships that exist with the State, but to assist with catapulting to the next development phase at that site and a variety of the open issues that remain that LFTC has been working very aggressively to resolve. With the objective, as soon as possible, looking to get new private sector investment into the site and new job creation. The other area that they will be actively looking on is that we would like to meet all Supervisors to fully understand, present day, your economic development priorities within various regions in the county and also work very actively with SEDC along with a variety of partners in the region to push Economic Development forward. Very specifically, we are looking to triage what are some potential projects, which right now could use further attention in terms of a potential incentive package from the State. There may be some issues with a potential project from a legislative or regulatory perspective and those are all areas where we can be of assistance in helping to move a project forward to completion. The second phase of work would be to triage one of the projects that where can lend our assistance whether it is SEDC, LFTC, municipalities or the county to advance particular concrete projects.

Mr. Sausville asked how the Federal Government plays into incentives for our economy? What kind of programs need to be developed at the Federal level so that there is a level playing field, and we can compete globally for global industries for the future? He said it seems as though the burden falls on the State and the localities.

Mrs. Chicatelli said one example could be that some of the funding that went through the legislative process, for example, the GlobalFoundries/AMD project. At the time it was Congressman Sweeney, followed by Gillibrand and Schumer who were able to secure funding for particular infrastructure needs. Generally what is seen is that specific targeted funding for particular projects is still an opportunity and that there is funding available.

With regard to other programs, this is an area where there are programs, but what has been done in the past and been successful is to identify what the funding needs are for a project and then go out and secure those funds from a variety of different sources.

Ms. Chicatelli said their approach has been to understand what the overall needs are of a potential new project and then put together the variety of funding sources from various levels to put the incentive package together.

Ms. Daly gave a brief overview of the Capital Region Economic Development Council through a PowerPoint presentation to the committee.

Mr. Angus said SEDC is working with a wide range of opportunities and companies beginning with GlobalFoundries and suppliers. There is 150-sq. ft. of space occupied and approximately 250 jobs defined thus far. SEDC's job is to make sure that this economy is diversified and that we are not relying on the semi-conductor industry only, he said. Recently they have been working on a project at the International Paper Mill with a renewable energy firm expressing interest in the site. SEDC continues to be involved with the PanAm Southern Project, having direct impact on the towns of Stillwater, Halfmoon and the City of Mechanicville. Mr. Angus said his involvement from the beginning has been to understand when this is up and operating what needs to be in the area, what development has to happen to support that. Work continues with four of the five IDA projects that are either ready or will soon be ready.

Mr. Kemper requested a resolution to approve a contract with Saratoga Hilton for the Planning Conference that will take place on January 25, 2012. Last year the contract was authorized up to \$32,000. As costs will be going up slightly this year, Mr. Kemper is requesting authorization for up to \$35,000. The expenses will be covered in the proposed 2012 Planning Department budget, he said. There is consideration in raising the conference fees. Currently the fees have been \$55 for in-county residents and \$65 for out of county residents and \$80 for late applicants. Mr. Kemper said he does not want to pass additional costs on to municipalities of Saratoga County. Mr. Kemper said 35% of the attendance at last years conference was from out of the county, with seven other counties participating in the Planning Conference, and approximately 550 attending the conference last year.

Mr. Sausville asked how much money is recovered from user costs? Mr. Kemper said the total conference costs for 2011 cost Saratoga County approximately \$3,800. Approximately \$42,000 was spent on the conference with approximately \$39,000 received back.

**A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve the county moving forward with an agreement with Saratoga Hilton for the Planning Conference on January 25<sup>th</sup> at a cost not to exceed \$35,000. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said every year at this time an application is made to the State Department of Recreation and Historic Preservation. Mr. Kemper is requesting authorization to accept grant funds up to \$89,000. In the last couple of years, however, the highest was approximately \$56,000, he said. When the money is received from the State it is then passed on to Snowmobile Clubs throughout the county, dependent on how much trail mileage they have.

**A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to authorize the chairman to enter into the necessary agreements to accept a snowmobile grant and determining no environmental impact relative to the construction or modification of snowmobile trail routes.**

Mr. Kemper said there was considerable storm damage on the Zim Smith Trail. He expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department for all their hard work in helping to clear the trails.

**On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Johnson the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom