

“Unapproved”
Economic Development Committee Minutes
November 2, 2011 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors A. Johnson, Kinowski, Lawler, Richardson and Wood; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Jason Kemper, Planning; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the October 5, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Daly said at the last CREDC meeting a review took place of the draft proposal of a strategic plan, with the end result being two versions. Currently, the documents consist of approximately 40 pages and are in the process of being rewritten. The CFA's were due October 31st, with 435 completed applications made to the Capital Region Economic Development Council.

Ms. Daly said that a grant was submitted from Saratoga County with a project summary entitled Saratoga County application for funding through the NYS Consolidated funding application procedure and the specific program through which the funding is sought is the NYS Department of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation. A \$400,000 grant has been requested, which is a 50% match basis grant. The county has already committed \$180,000 in funds from the 2011 budget with the remainder \$173,840 in in-kind services which will include clearing, grubbing and grant administrative services. Private funds are being looked at with an estimated value of 5.77 acres at approximately \$8,000 per acre from the Capital District Intermodal Automobile Facility. Ms. Daly said this was an opportunity to apply for a grant under this newly developed funding application procedure and the whole direction of the State. It showed the county being a partner in the sense that we have already been involved in this project and have already committed considerable time and money into the project. We have a business partner in the intermodal facility and we are also partnering with NYSEG. NYSEG is in need of being able to run some utilities and they have offered to participate in the clearing and preparing of the land. Letters of support have been received from the City of Mechanicville and Stillwater and Halfmoon.

Ms. Daly requested a resolution of support for the grant application to the Capital Region Economic Development Council in the amount of \$400,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Richardson and Mr. Kinowski to approve supporting a Capital Region Economic Development Council Grant application in the amount of \$400,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson gave a brief summary of a report on the operations and accomplishments of the Saratoga County Industrial Development Agency for 2011 as follows.

- **21 Aletta Street** – a limited partnership which proposed to construct a \$3.5 million 30,000 sq. ft. bus garage on 16 acres in the W.J. Grande Industrial Park in Saratoga Springs. The garage is in the process of being constructed and is expected to be completed by Spring of 2012.
- **Albatros North America** – A company originally located in Schenectady which is no longer adequate for the company, which assembles, tests and services power converters and other devices for passenger rail cars. The company is expanding their product line to include solar photovoltaic invertors for small solar projects. The company was under construction last year and is now open for business.
- **Edgepark Medical Supplies** – A company that outgrew its space in Clifton Park and is moving to Halfmoon to construct a 75,000 sq. ft. office/distribution facility on eight acres.
- **Global Foundries U.S.** – They will increase the size of Fab 8 from 883 thousand sq. ft. to 1.15 million sq. ft. and they have received abatements for real estate and mortgage tax.
- **Mountain Ledge, LLC** – The company is building a 32,500 sq. ft. facility in the Town of Wilton to be leased to SUNY Adirondack. This will provide Saratoga County residents the opportunity to receive a full degree without having to travel to Queensbury.
- **Riverview Realty** – This company will rehab the vacant 250,000 sq. ft. Victory Mill for 98 luxury apartment units and a pre-school. Typically the IDA does not deal with residential projects, but the Board felt this one merited consideration due to its potential benefits on this area of the county.

Mr. Johnson said the IDA collects fees on the various projects, so there is a fund balance. Last year the IDA decided to accept applications for grants from local municipalities and loans from private businesses for projects that may create additional jobs. Since the program was initiated \$2 million has been expended through the fund balance.

The agency received an application for \$30,000 in grant funds from the Burnt Hills Ballston Lake School District in December 2010 to fund the Semi Tech U program in May 2011. This is a three-day technology driven math and science career exploration program, which was attended by approximately 40 high school students and teachers from several school districts in Saratoga County.

Mr. Lawler asked how a school gets invited? He said he would like to make sure that every school has an invitation.

Mr. Johnson said in May the agency provided a \$4,500 grant to SEDC to help defray the costs of sponsoring the Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Conference in Saratoga Springs which brings together executives from the leading industries in the field of microelectronics.

Mr. Johnson said Saratoga County requested \$50,000 through the Economic Development Committee to help Economic Development efforts at the County level. Most recently the Agency approved a grant application by the City of Saratoga Springs in the amount of \$250,000 towards the construction of a two level parking deck which will provide 328 spaces for the City's central business district.

Mr. Johnson said in 2006 the IDA funded an Economic Impact study for the Saratoga Race Course for the entire region. The Agency just paid to have it updated to find out what the current numbers are and the current impacts are. The study has been completed and will be released in November. Ms. Daly asked Mr. Johnson if he would give a short summary on the results at the December Economic Development Committee meeting.

Ms. Daly said she has had conversations with Global Foundries and Mr. Russo with regard to Global Foundries not receiving local applications for jobs. They want to hire local people and they feel that they are not getting enough applications from local people. Ms. Daly said one of the points that she made was that if they were really interested in hiring local people, they should put a local face on the job fair that they would like to have. Ms. Daly said she would like to develop a job fair for Global Foundries through the Economic Development Committee and the entire Board of Supervisors. She said she would be working with Global Foundries Human Resource Department to get a full outline of the type applications and the needs of Global Foundries. She said she would like to bring the project back as a Saratoga County job fair for Global Foundries positions having each Supervisor in each community do outreach and really send the message. Ms. Daly said she would be giving another presentation at the November Agenda Meeting.

Mr. Kinowski said he would be giving a presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting regarding the county trail system that is now on the website.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom