

Economic Development Committee Minutes  
(Amended)  
September 6, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman A. Johnson; Supervisors Gutheil, Janik, Richardson and Sausville; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning Director; Ken Green SEDC; Mike Relyea, Project Manager for the Luther Forest Project; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Janik, seconded by Mr. Gutheil the minutes of the June 7, 2007 meeting were approved with the following amendment: Mrs. Keyrouze be added to the attendance record. Unanimous.**

Mr. Valentine said this year 171 miles of trail are being proposed. By changing the rates that were paid last year, it changed the amount of the grant that was provided through the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In 2005-2006 the base amount of the grant was \$73,000, and last year it was based at \$77,400. The adjustment in the rates actually changed the amount to \$42,675; therefore, the snowmobile clubs ended up with half the amount of money they thought they were going to get for the same amount of trails, based upon snowmobile registrations and the lack of snow for the previous year. Last year the base was \$89,010 from \$77,400. This year as of yet, mileage has not been approved from the Parks and Recreation for trails for 2007-2008.

Mr. Valentine said after speaking to the county treasurer, it was noted that it would be acceptable to use the figure of \$89,000 from last year, as there are fewer miles in this year's plan.

Mr. Valentine requested a resolution to approve \$89,000 for a snowmobile grant application.

**A motion was made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Mr. Gutheil to authorize the Chairman of the Board to apply for and accept the**

**Snowmobile Trail Grant for an amount not to exceed \$89,000.  
Unanimous.**

Mr. Green said the Board of Supervisors set in motion in 1978, a public/private partnership, where the County and the Economic Development Corporation worked together to develop a strategy for attracting quality jobs for residents. Being able to keep taxes low because of a good tax base and pay for some of the nice things that we like to have in our communities such as parks, open space, arts, communities centers, etc. Mr. Green applauded the Board of Supervisors for staying the course.

Mr. Greene commended individual towns that have taken the time to put master plans in place to build balance in communities. This is what gives Saratoga County the ability to receive a grade “A” when it comes to quality of jobs and opportunity, he said.

Mr. Greene said the county will need to continue to do some inventory of the existing base of site and buildings and places for business and opportunity. More business parks will need to be created, potentially bringing up the potential for resources, such as water and sewer lines.

Mr. Greene introduced Mr. Relyea, Project Manager for the Luther Forest Project.

Mr. Relyea said Luther Forest is moving from engineering and permitting to construction. The engineering is 95% done on what needs to be done in order for the basic infrastructure to be done such as power, roads, sewer, water etc. It is hopeful that construction will begin in the spring, he said.

Mr. Kemper said current work on the Zim Smith Trail is on schedule and should be completed by early October.

Mr. Kemper said approximately a year ago he came to the Economic Development committee to submit a grant to the New York State Education Department for a GIS needs assessment in the amount of \$28,000. This grant has since been received.

Mr. Kemper said the parcel conversion is approximately halfway completed through a grant that was received from the New York State office of Real Property for **\$110,000**. Currently, the tax parcels are maintained through a

CAD format. Through this grant everything will be converted to the GIS system, he said. The conversion will be completed by early 2008.

Mr. Kemper said 13 grant applications were received totaling approximately \$2.5 million, consisting of 6 farmland applications and 7 open space applications.

Mr. Johnson said earlier this year he appointed a subcommittee to work on the county use policy for the Zim Smith Trail, which consisted of Mr. Sausville, Mr. Peck and Mr. Johnson.

The subcommittee will be meeting on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30p.m., to begin the process.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom