

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2009 – 2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Jankins, Veitch, Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Jason Kemper, Planning; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Jim Angus, Shelby Schneider, SEDC; Drew Kerr, Post Star

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2008. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Daly said the Empire Zone Administration contract with SEDC we have is an on-going item for this Committee ever since we received our designation seven years ago. She said Mrs. Schneider is the SEDC expert on the empire zones. Mrs. Schneider said the services SEDC provides for the County is the overall administration for the Empire Zone. We work to attract businesses and retain them and maintenance and record keeping for zone certified businesses. We help explain benefits and bring them through the certification process, she said. It is a much more complicated process than it was seven years ago. We help them get through New York State Economic Development Corp. as well as the Department of Labor, and they have to report to us on an annual basis, she said. She stated the Zone Administrative Board streamlines our performance monitoring standards. She said the contract covers their staffing, time, travel and any other administrative expenses associated with the program. Chairman Daly stated they play a key role in our marketing.

Mr. Wright asked what happens when the businesses do not hold up their end. Mrs. Schneider said they reach out to the business to find out what's going on and try to find out if they are not working as hard. There are some factors that come into play. Businesses not performing are brought in, and the ZAB recommends decertification, and from there, it is a State process. The business has a right to review by a formal judge. Chairman Daly said we are reviewing the contract, and it is a continuation of the same contract. She stated the \$60,000 is already incorporated into the budget this year. **Mr. Jenkins moved to authorize continuing the contract with SEDC with no changes. Mr. Veitch seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Daly distributed copies of an article from the Poughkeepsie Journal regarding Empire Zones that she received from Mrs. Schneider. She stated Saratoga County is extremely involved in this program, and she thought this was a great article that talks about the value of empire zones and the need to continue

to support the program. It is just an informal piece, and I thought it was well written and very concise, she stated. Mrs. Schneider said this piece was probably written because of new legislation being proposed for the upcoming budget. She said if any one has any questions about potential impacts, she will be happy to provide technical assistance. Chairman Daly said we should have a quick synopsis that we could forward on to the Legislative & Research Committee for their official visit with the State Legislative officials. Mrs. Schneider said it will have an impact on on-going projects and major employers.

Mr. Jenkins said he has done work for four companies that use empire zones, and all of those companies have grown. Only one might qualify under the new rules, he said. He stated the start-up companies would not fit in, he said. Chairman Daly said that is a message we should carry to Albany. Mr. Jenkins said this is a great thing for small companies to create jobs. Chairman Daly said it won't be a pretty picture to see some of those companies lose their certification.

In discussing Local Law 5-2008, Chairman Daly said we need to clarify our original intent is still the same. Mr. Rider said the project is the same, but their final name was not picked, so they gave a name for the project applicant AMD Fab Technologies, Inc. He said it will be the same entity with a corporation name change. We are aware and still intend to approve their designation, he said. **Mr. Veitch moved to clarify Local Law 5-2008 to recognize that the name of the project applicant for the AMD Empire Zone may change without any impact on the local law. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Chairman Daly distributed copies of the Economic Development Committee Report for 2008. She said it is nice to stop and reflect on where we left and what accomplishments were made. She said she would like to dovetail on the work of last year with her goals for the Committee as well as continuing to create jobs and to move Saratoga County forward. She said she proposes reaching out to someone in the Austin, Texas area who has seen AMD locate in a community to discuss changes, ancillary businesses that will look to locate, and to educate communities as to what lies ahead for us. She said as the project officially opens, matures and grows forward, she would like to have an economic development person, again from that area, who can take a look at the demographics of our area and identify our strengths and shortfalls. She said this person can tell us what typically happens when you have an impact on the community so that each community can begin to look at their own zoning and planning. I want to create a real visual picture based on those who have seen it and done it, she said. We will have to work together to do it all, she stated. She said she would like to partner with SEDC and the business community. It is all about creating jobs, and that is what I want for Saratoga County, but we cannot close our eyes to problems, she added. Mr. Jenkins said his town is dealing with a major issue of no infrastructure. Chairman Daly said perhaps that can be changed.

Mr. Kemper mentioned 340 people have signed up for the Planning Conference as of today. We have a good program, everything is coming together nicely, and he encouraged all Supervisors to attend.

On a motion by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Wright, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann