

Economic Development Committee Minutes

April 13, 2010 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Grattidge, Kinowski, Lawler, Richardson and Sausville and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Missy Shorey, Shorey, Kathy Wren, Shorey PR; Shelby Schneider, SEDC; Cindy Schmehl, Exec. Director of To Love A Child; Drew Matonak, President, Hudson Valley Community College; Press.

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

Ms. Daly introduced Mr. Matonak, President of Hudson Valley. Mr. Matonak gave a brief introduction about the facility as follows:

Hudson Valley received \$13.5 million from the State to buy the building. Part of the reason for that was that Global Foundry was moving to the area, and there would be a need for Clean Room Technicians. Hudson Valley, at that time, was the only College in the area that had a clean room technician program. Since then, Schenectady Community College and Fulton Community College have started a program. The second focus of the facility is alternative and renewable energy, with 40% – 50% of the building supported by those technologies.

Mr. Matonak said the whole \$13.5 million, plus a little more went into the Tech Smart building. Much of the equipment came from the college's operating budget. Due to the fact that many programs will cost more than the revenue coming in, ways will have to be explored to make the building as cost effective as possible. In an effort to keep costs down, and/or generate revenue, courses will be offered in the arts, sciences and business, and the facility will be available to support meetings and programs.

Mr. Matonak introduced Mr. Sarubbi, Executive Director of Tech Smart. Mr. Sarubbi gave a brief tour of the Tech Smart building.

On a motion made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Sausville the minutes of the March 3, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Schneider requested a resolution to allow SEDC to move forward with the Empire Zone Administrative Grant in the amount of \$60,000.

Mr. Lawler asked how many businesses have lost their certification? Mrs. Schneider there are no businesses that have lost their certification through the re-certification process.

A motion was made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve a resolution to allow SEDC to move forward with a Empire Zone Administrative Grant in the amount of \$60,000. Unanimous.

Ms. Daly said part of the initiative that the Economic Development committee has taken on from last year, is to walk the Cities and Towns through an Assets and Needs Assessment.

Mrs. Schneider distributed handouts outlining the Assets and Needs Report to all committee members and gave a brief outline as follows:

The process began in January and SEDC has heard back from 17 communities thus far, with 4 remaining. Overall the feedback has been positive and has established an avenue of communication.

Current Strategy

- **Retain existing employers**
- **Prepare Communities**
- **Development “Shovel Ready” sites**
- **Create Global Awareness**
- **Capitalize on Opportunity**
- **Attract Targeted Industry Sectors and suppliers**
 - Clean-Tech, Biotech, Nanotech

Corridor Towns

- **Attract business opportunities**
- **Develop sites**
- **Expand infrastructure**
- **Improve connectivity**
- **Develop a tax base**
- **Control Spending**
- **Capitalize on Luther Forest**
- **Provide jobs for residents**

Shoulder Towns

- **Maintain rural character**
- **Strengthen agriculture**
- **Improve connectivity**
- **Balance tax base**
- **Control spending**
- **Explore recreational/waterfront development opportunities**
- **Supportive of economic development countywide**

- **Provide jobs for residents**

Mrs. Schneider said using this plan you begin to see repetitive needs and assets. If there are opportunities out there, you can begin to aggregate some of the needs to make a greater case when pursuing resources.

Mrs. Schneider said this is a living/working document that SEDC hopes when communities get started they keep working on.

Ms. Daly said she hopes that at the June Economic Development Meeting a final report will be presented.

Ms. Daly said that was the intention all along. This is a worksheet, but at some point you need to take a snapshot and use it as a basis for the program to move forward whether for pursuing funding or being able to elevate some of the current assets that we have to a higher level.

Ms. Shorey distributed a draft of the Message Map to all committee members for their review and comments. After a review of the draft and comments made for some changes, the committee agreed on a show of support to move forward with those changes to establish a final Message Map.

Ms. Daly said she has been working with Ms. Schmehl to come up with an idea in response to a request from her organization "To Love A Child", to see if there is anything that Saratoga County can do to aid in the rebuilding of schools in Haiti. Ms. Daly said, many school districts have educational materials that are either outdated or have been replaced and are discarded at the end of the school year. She would like to offer the opportunity for Saratoga County to become a facilitator, working with all the schools in the county, to collect and box all unwanted books and supplies. The county would then collect the boxed materials and work with a partner to have the materials shipped to Haiti, where the organization "To Love A Child" would be on hand to receive and distribute the materials.

Ms. Schmehl said To Love A Child was in Haiti prior to the earthquake; however, priorities have greatly changed. To Love A Child would like to be able to bring school supplies to the children in Haiti so that they can continue their education.

Ms. Daly said she has spoken with public officials in the county and they don't feel that there is a problem in collecting the boxed supplies. There have been a number of sites identified to store the supplies before they are shipped out.

Mr. Sausville asked how the items would be shipped to Haiti? Ms. Daly said there are a couple of opportunities, one being the Air National Guard.

Mr. Wood said he has seen first hand where school districts at the end of the year purchase into a new series, but the materials that are discarded are perfectly good. The

potential value of them to children in other countries is just phenomenal. We already have the county infrastructure through public works or individual towns that could assist in the transportation of the materials. He also suggested the potential help from student council members, or community service projects at the high school level.

Ms. Daly encouraged anyone who is able to setup a meeting with a school district to move forward. Shorey PR will establish a flyer to be distributed to all supervisors in support of the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve Saratoga County as a facilitator to collect materials from schools within the county, and to work with a partner to have the materials shipped to Haiti and distributed by the organization “ To Love A Child”. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom