

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2006 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors DeCerce, A. Johnson, Sausville, Yepsen, and Gutheil; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Sarah Clarkin, Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park; Robert Bryant, Sara. Co. Snowmobile Assoc.; Mark Rider, County Attorney; Rick Jarvis, Laberge Group; Julie Stokes, Saratoga PLAN; Shelby Schneider, Jon Dawgs, SEDC; Michael N'deto, Camoin Associates; Mike Muche, Malta Trails Committee; Larry Benton, Jamie O'Neill, Saratoga County Planning; Gavin Landry, Sara. Co. Tourism Advisory Board; Mark Baker, City Center; George Hodgson, EMC; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the minutes of the February 9, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Hodgson said the county owns approximately 3,000 acres of forestry land that is managed and harvested amounting to approximately \$30,000 in revenue each year. A forestry consultant has been hired to work in conjunction with the County Attorney's office, and the Purchasing Department to establish a sale agreement. Approximately a month and a half ago a request for proposal was submitted with four responses back. The first and lowest bidder was Forest Solutions, which is a division of Saratoga Land Management Corp in the Town of Malta. Their agreement states that services would be rendered at 10% of the sale amount of the timber sale revenues, including all the delineation of the sale boundaries, marketing and tallying, sales prep, advertising, timber showing, receipt of bids, execution agreement, collection, delivering of sale proceeds, plus a \$50 per man hourly charge for all services not directly connected with the harvesting.

The second bid was from Richard J. Cipperly, North County Forestry with a separate marking fee at \$12 per acre, plus a 10% fee for stumpage to cover all services.

The third proposal is from Lake George Forestry, Inc. as follows:

Timber Sale Preparation (Service Item 1&2)

Lot identification and location

Tree marking

Tree tally

\$30/Acre

Timber Sale (Service Items 3,4,5&6)

Advertising

Bid review

Timber sale contract preparation

Compliance enforcement of contract terms

Record keeping

Preparation of monthly statements

Payment tracking

10% of Sale Value

Timber Inventory, Management Plan

Preparation, Timber Trespass (Service Item 7)

Field work

Office work

\$40/hour

Mr. Hodgson said the third proposal is from Fountain Forestry, a consulting firm that has done consulting for the county in the past. The proposal includes a 10% sale administration fee, as well as a marking fee of \$35 per acre.

Mr. Hodgson requested a resolution accepting Forest Solutions as the low bidder at a rate of 10% of the sale amount, plus \$50 per man-hour.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve a resolution accepting Forest Solutions as the low bidder for consulting services at a fee of 10% of the sale amount, plus \$50 per man hour for all services not connected to a timber sale. Ayes – Peck, DeCerce, Sausville, and Yepsen – A. Johnson – Abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Hodgson said last fall the Town of Clifton Park began working on a bicycle trail system throughout the town. On a section of configured trail

there are NationalGrid poles that will need to be removed. It will have minimal impact on the county forest, however, it will require the removal of eight to ten trees along the edge of the county roadway, and require an easement be given to NationalGrid.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Sausville to approve authorizing the Chairman to sign for an easement to NationalGrid for the removal of trees in the Town of Clifton Park, pending the approval of the County Attorney. Unanimous.

Mr. Hodgson said the Wilton Wildlife Preserve has contacted the County regarding an existing agreement that the County has had in place with them since 2003. There are approximately 400 acres of county forestland contiguous to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve. A request is being made to allow some removal of county trees on a 55-acre parcel of red pine to open up some areas, he said. One would be a 6.5-acre, identified as County North and another 6 acres, identified as County South, which would be used for Lupine planting for the Karner Blue Butterfly. It was noted that a parcel across the street is owned by New York State and contains the third largest Karner Blue Butterfly population in New York State and in the East.

Ms. Clarkin said it is hopeful that the creation of additional acres of habitat would really help the Karner Blue Butterfly and recover the species, which is on the State and Federal endangered species list.

Mr. Baker gave a brief overview of the importance of grouping convention business to the County area. He said Senator Bruno has announced \$12 million in funding toward the \$17 million expansion of the City Center in Saratoga Springs. The expansion will grow from the current 52,000-sq. ft. to 80,000 sq. ft and remain open for business during the 14-month construction phase, he said.

Mr. Landry said the Saratoga County Tourism Bureau is a destination marketing organization and serves as a sister agent to the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and the Saratoga County Economic Corporation. A brief overview of the expansion of the City Center was given.

Mr. Peck asked how many hotel rooms have been added in the city? Mr. Landry said, since the year 2000 there have been 700 hundred-hotel rooms

added to the county. The supply has exceeded the demand, but the overall profitability industry has stayed strong, he said. In 1999 there was \$31,588,805 in gross revenues compared to \$52,858,399 in 2005. Tourism is the second largest employer in the county, second only to agriculture, he said.

Mr. Baker said part of the success of the City Center is the financial mechanism that allows it to proceed and work as it has for the past 27 years. The pilot program that was designed expires in 2007. The City Center received county taxes this year of approximately \$44,700. He requested that the county begin discussions to establish appropriations in a like amount, just as the pilot money has been pledged for the last 25 years.

Mr. Baker said the pilot is funded by property tax off the hotel. The funds are administered to the IDA and then turned over to the City of Saratoga Springs property subsidy. The counties portion of that at today's value, would be \$58,000.

Mrs. Schneider introduced Mr. Jarvis, from Laberge Group and Mr. N'deto, from Camoin Associates to discuss main street grant programs that were awarded from the Department of Housing and Community Renewal and how they fit into the downtown re-development strategies for the Village of Corinth and the Village of South Glens Falls communities.

Mr. Jarvis said funds were applied for in September of 2004, however, they were actually awarded with a signed contract to the Village of South Glens Falls April 1, 2006. The total monies in the Main Street grant were \$200,000 to be used for the improvement of facades and interiors for businesses in the downtown area. In 2002 there was a strategic plan established with seventeen goals; to date, 15 of those goals have been completed.

Mr. N'deto said the revitalization to the Village of Corinth will include improvements to the infrastructure and streetscapes as follows: Housing rehabilitation, commercial building improvements and improvements to Jessup's Landing Community Park, producing approximately 35 additional jobs.

Mr. Peck said documentation has been received from the engineers with regard to the Zim Smith Trail System. The project will go out to bid after it has been approved in-house and by the New York State Department of Transportation.

Mr. Sausville asked when bids would be going out for the Zim Smith Trail System. Mr. Peck said within the next several weeks.

Mr. Dawgs issued an invitation to all committee members to the next Economic Development summit, to be held on Wednesday, June 28th at the City Center between 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. DeCerce, seconded by Ms. Yepsen the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom