

Economic Development Committee Minutes

July 8, 2008 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors A. Johnson, Richardson, and Veitch; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Jason Kemper, Planning; Shelby Schneider, Jim Angus, SEDC; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Johnson the minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Daly said recently the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation appointed a new Vice President. She introduced Mr. Angus, Vice President of SEDC to the committee members and expressed the committee's positive working relationship with SEDC.

Mr. Richardson said this morning in Mechanicville, Senator Bruno and Assemblyman McDonald were there to announce the opening of the rail yards in Mechanicville, to intermodal and automotive rail transportation, putting Mechanicville in a position for potential economic growth.

The Pan Am Southern joint venture is subject to approval of the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, which is expected to issue a decision on the transaction in October 2008. Construction will begin soon after. The railway center will bring approximately 35 jobs initially with a projected 85 – 100 thereafter.

Ms. Daly said this underscores the partnerships in the county where we are working with the small towns and cities.

Mr. Kemper said the County Planning Conference that is held every year in January will take place on January 28, 2009. Cost proposals are being worked out with the Hilton in Saratoga Springs. There are approximately 500 attendees at the conference each year. In the past there have been 12 courses that have been offered throughout the day, however this year there will be 16 courses offered with at least three of the courses solely dedicated to elected officials in the county.

Sponsorships are about where they were last year, with approximately \$10,000 raised last year. Currently there are approximately 340 planning and zoning board members from around the county.

Mr. Kemper said the website is currently underway, with all e-mail addresses changed. He estimated that the website would be up and running within the next two to three weeks. With the new design each department will be able to make updates easily.

Mr. Johnson asked how the GIS system was progressing. Mr. Kemper the system is moving forward. An \$80,000 Sara Grant that was applied for was not obtained; however, an amendment to the grant has been filed. There is still some money left over from a grant from Senator Bruno that will allow for updates to the system, as well as other items that were previously funded through other grants.

Ms. Daly said at the next meeting in September Dennis Brobston, President of SEDC will give an update and report on the goals and objectives of SEDC. At the next Agenda meeting Mr. Relyea will give a brief update on the Luther Forest Project.

Mr. Richardson said Mrs. Wormuth, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Lawler and he met with Congresswoman Guillibrand with regard to the dredging of the Hudson River. The Congresswoman has said she will help the towns in getting fresh water during the dredging process.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom