

Economic Development Committee Minutes

August 11, 2008 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Connelly, A. Johnson, Peck, Richardson, Veitch, Wormuth and Sausville; Michael Valentine, Jason Kemper, Planning; Greg Dixon, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce; Jim Angus, Shelby Schneider, Dennis Brobston, SEDC; Michael Fesen, Norfolk Southern Railroad; Syd Gilliford, Roger Bergeron, Pan Am Railway; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the July 8, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Schneider introduced Mr. Fesen from Norfolk Southern Railroad. Mr. Fesen gave a brief overview of the Norfolk Southern, Patriot Corridor and Saratoga County Intermodal and Automotive plans.

Mr. Fesen said Norfolk and Southern is a class one railroad, which is a larger railroad. There are seven class one railroads in the United States, generally two in the east and two in the west. In the East it is Norfolk Southern and of the four largest railroads Norfolk Southern is the smallest of the four. The biggest competitor is CSX Corporation. Norfolk Southern operates in approximately 22 different states, operating with a very good track record for safety and profitability.

The “Green” benefits of the rail are as follows:

- ❑ One intermodal train can take 300 trucks off the highways
- ❑ Locomotives are approximately three times cleaner than trucks on an emissions per ton-mile basis
- ❑ A 10% shift nationwide of long haul freight from truck to trains would save over one billion gallons of fuel and 11.6 million tons of carbon dioxide per year.

The joint venture between Pan Am Central and Norfolk Southern will improve the rail connections between New England and the rest of the U.S. rail network.

The following are some customer benefits of the Patriot Corridor:

- ❑ Improved competitive local and overhead options for New York and New England shippers
- ❑ A faster, higher capacity railroad between Albany and the Boston market
- ❑ Faster transit times
- ❑ Creation of infrastructure to accommodate heavier cars (286K) between Albany and Ayer (and other Pan Am points)
- ❑ Anticipated addition of intermodal and/or automotive capacity in the New York and New England markets

The projected employment growth is as follows:

- ❑ Mechanicville Intermodal jobs transferred from the Albany Terminal are approximately 20 by 2010.
- ❑ Between 2010 and 2015 approximately 13 jobs per year will be added in Mechanicville
- ❑ The total direct employment by 2015 is 85 jobs between intermodal and auto facilities

The positive impact on the Capital Region would be a reduction in truck and train traffic in downtown Albany resulting in less congestion and air and noise pollution.

Mr. Johnson asked when the project would begin and when is it anticipated that the project will be complete? Mr. Fesen said the project will begin by late October early November 2008 with approval by the federal Surface Transportation Board and estimated to be complete by 2010.

Mr. Richardson requested a resolution supporting the federal Surface Transportation Board's approval to create the Patriot Corridor Joint Venture between Pan Am and Norfolk Southern Railways.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve a resolution in support of the federal Surface Transportation Board's approval to create the Patriot Corridor Joint Venture between Pan Am and Norfolk Southern Railways. Unanimous.

Mr. Brobston said SEDC has been informed from Empire State Development of an announcement that will be made on Wednesday, August 13th at 10:30a.m. in South Glens Falls at SCA Paper. He invited all Supervisors to attend.

Mr. Valentine requested a resolution to approve a snowmobile grant application in the amount of \$89,000. There are 163 miles of trail that have been applied for, which is a reduction of five miles from last year, he said.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Connelly to approve a resolution to accept the annual State Snowmobile Grant in an amount not to exceed \$89,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said on Snow Road and Hadley Hill Roads in the Town of Day, at the request of Supervisor M. Johnson, she would like the removal of some trees along the roadway to improve visibility. On both roads county forestland is in close proximity to the road.

Mr. Kemper said both of the jobs are small and it is difficult to get a contractor to do the work, therefore, he is looking for Saratoga Land Management to perform the job and then pay the county at the normal stumpage rate for the timber.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mrs. Wormuth to authorize Saratoga Land Management to harvest and pay the county a stummage rate for the timber. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)

Mr. Kemper said there was a bid for 107 acres on Barkersville Road, which is a county owned parcel with 210,000ft. of saw timber. The highest bidder was A. Johnson Co at \$67,682.95.

Mr. Kemper requested a resolution to enter into a revenue contract with A. Johnson Company to accept \$67,682.95 for timber harvested on county property in the Town of Providence.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Johnson to authorize the Chairman to enter into a revenue contract with the A. Johnson Company to accept \$67,682.95 for timber harvested on county property in the Town of Providence. Unanimous.

Mr. Dixon requested a resolution to designate the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the county Tourism Promotion Agency and to apply for the "I Love NY" matching funds grant program.

Mr. Dixon said that in past years the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce has been able to apply for the maximum amount of \$263,850. Ultimately they have received and spent \$2,446. This year the program is changing to provide more realistic maximum funding request amounts with a fiscal year of January through December.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve a resolution to designate the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce as the county Tourism Promotion Agency and authorize them to apply for \$263,850 in "I Love NY" tourism grants for 2008-2009. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom