

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Peck, Richardson, Veitch, Thompson, Jenkins, Wormuth, Grattidge and Southworth; D. Wickerham, County Administrator; Jason Kemper, Planning; Robert Wilcox, Asst. County Attorney; Shelby Schneider, Jim Angus, Dennis Brobston, SEDC.

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Mr. Veitch the minutes of the August 11, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper said there were numerous minor contracts for the Planning Conference. Costs have gone up from \$10,000 to \$13,000 for this year's event since the hotel has changed from the Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center to the Saratoga Hilton. An increase of \$10 for county people and \$15 for all others has been proposed. The purpose of today is to eliminate the contract with Saratoga Hotel. The minor contract prices were as follows: Data Line Design for the programs, at \$3,800; the City Center, \$3,500; and Clifton Park Rental Center at \$2,000, for the booths and kiosks for the vendors. The new contract with Saratoga Hilton will be approximately \$30,000. The total cost for the 2008 conference was approximately \$43,000. Revenues usually make up expenses from visitor booths, registration and sponsors.

Mr. Peck asked how many registrations there were in 2008? Mr. Kemper said 525.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Veitch to authorize the Chairman to enter into a rental agreement with The Saratoga Hilton for the annual planning conference at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Brobston gave a brief overview from SEDC as follows:

The SEDC mission is to create jobs, diversify and increase the tax base while improving the quality of life for the residents of Saratoga County.

This is accomplished through the retention of existing business, attraction of new industry and improving the product to Saratoga County. The way to improve the product is to give technical assistance to businesses to help them grow.

SEDC has been in business for over thirty-years when the partnership began with Saratoga County. Since that time SEDC has done \$1.3 billion worth of projects with 12,000 jobs created.

Since 1995 Saratoga County has lost \$3,521 jobs of which 2,535 were in manufacturing. SEDC has created since that time 2,654 jobs in the county with 333 in manufacturing.

Mr. Brobston said the good news is that there is a focused attraction program for nanotechnology and other new science based manufacturers that are prepared to deal with incentives. There is support for the development of the Luther Forest Technology Campus and delivery of an outstanding package for AMD, which today has announced their acceptance.

SEDC's focus includes: Retaining existing businesses; educating communities regarding zoning and approval needs of industries; preparing the business community as to why "spec" buildings and new parks are needed and get their support; attract semiconductor related industries for Luther Forest Technology Center; continue the partnerships with Saratoga County and SEDC members.

Recently the Empire Zone certified the following companies:

- Woodstone – located in Moreau Industrial Park as a manufacturer of wood pellets for heating, and alternative fuel industry.
- Electrovaaya – located in STEP as a manufacturer of lithium ion super polymer battery systems for electric cars. They have a contract to produce battery-powered lawn mowers to be debuted at the 2009 US Open, alternative fuel industry.

Mr. Brobston said "The Foundry Company" is the new company that AMD is going to be forming. The projected job creation is as follows:

- 1,400 new direct manufacturing jobs in Saratoga County
- 5,000 indirect jobs throughout the region
- 1,600 construction jobs on site with an additional 2,700 multiplier jobs in the region
- \$3.8 billion dollar investment (three times the investment of the last 30 years)

Mr. Tisdale, Director of AMD Global Community Affairs, said that AMD's manufacturing assets are going to be pulled out of the company and combined with capital from the Advanced Technology Investment Company, which is a fund out of Abu Dhabi, creating a separate company called "The Foundry Company". The closing of the deal will be in approximately 90 days, contingent of the State's incentive package being transferred to the new entity.

The board of directors will be made up half from Advanced Technology Investment Company and half from AMD. Initially, it was thought that the company would produce chips strictly for AMD. Now, it is a "Foundry" that will produce chips for a variety of customers.

Mr. Tisdale said initially there would be 1,465 jobs created. The investment in the company has gone up considerably from \$3.2 billion to \$4.6 billion.

Mr. Peck asked what caused the investment change? Mr. Tisdale said the project is bigger and more advanced than initially expected.

Mr. Wickerham asked if there was a timetable when the project would begin? Mr. Tisdale said the project is expected to close by January. Grounding breaking is projected for mid 2009.

Mr. Wickerham asked if the training of people for jobs would be local? Mr. Tisdale said initially there would be certain individuals brought in from existing FABS with a specialty in starting up FABS. They will be the first team that will begin the first process. Over time people will be hired from the local area.

Ms. Daly congratulated Mr. Tisdale and the AMD project for their commitment. Saratoga County is very proud and couldn't be more hopeful for the future of business and employment.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom