

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

February 3, 2009 - 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Daly; Supervisors Jenkins, Lawler, Richardson, Sausville, Veitch, Wright; Grattidge; David Wickerham, Co. Administrator; Jason Kemper, Jaime O'Neill, Planning; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Daly called the meeting to order.

Mr. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the January 14th meeting. Mr. Wright seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Daly congratulated Mr. Kemper on the work he went through for the recent Planning Conference. It was a success and is a benefit to Saratoga County municipalities, she said. She said she was unable to be there, but Mr. Kemper's knowledge and expertise is greatly appreciated. Mr. Kemper thanked his staff for their work also. He said the conference was down in attendance of about 140 due to the snowstorm, but we served under 400 lunches. He stated they received a lot of good reviews. Because this conference has gotten so big, we need to amend the budget to allow me to pay the bills, he said. He said he needs to appropriate \$6,000. **Mr. Lawler moved to approve an additional \$6,000 in appropriations and revenues for the County Planning Conference. Mr. Richardson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Kemper said that George Hodgson was at another meeting today, and asked him to request another 5-year agreement between Saratoga County and the Wilton Wildlife Preserve. He said this management agreement just expired and needs to be re-authorized. Mr. Wickerham explained we tried to turn some County forest land over to the Park, but it did not get through the State Legislature, so we entered into a long-term management agreement with them. With the Board's permission, we will do another 5-year renewal, he said. **Mr. Sausville moved to authorize another 5-year management agreement with the Wilton Wildlife Preserve. Mr. Jenkins seconded. Unanimous.**

Ms. O'Neill said Saratoga County has two Consolidated Agricultural Districts. Every year, we have an annual time frame where either district can petition for viable agricultural land to be included in their respective district. She said this year, we received one petition for Agriculture District #2 for 102 acres in the Town of Galway from Robert and Janet Glenn who raise beef cattle and feed. She stated the Saratoga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board recommends that the Glenn Farm along Ridge Road in the Town of Galway be included in Consolidated Agricultural District #2. **Mr. Lawler moved to authorize the inclusion of this parcel. Mr. Richardson seconded. Unanimous.**

Mr. Lawler said with the presentation by the IDA at the last Board Meeting, would it make sense to have this Committee be the point of contact to represent the

Supervisors? Chairman Daly said she believes the IDA has some organization behind them with what they are doing, but she agrees we should be working with them. Mr. Jenkins said basically, they have money for economic development. Chairman Daly said it is every community's charge to what would work in their community. From that point, this Committee can be used to support their requests to the IDA, but I do not know if we could be the creators. I would be willing to help and support communities that might need assistance in coming up with ideas, she stated. Mr. Lawler said we could be used as a sounding board and to give some opinion to the County IDA. Chairman Daly said she would hope that as a project went forward to the IDA, if it had the support of this Committee, it would give it a stronger case and carry merit. She said we can make note of this at Agenda next week. She said we could have a letter of support for the project to the IDA.

Chairman Daly said she met with Shelby Schneider, of SEDC, who is watching closely the proposed changes to the Empire Zone legislation. She said she is not proficient enough to report to the Committee on them as yet, but she will be keeping an eye and ear on them and will bring something to the Legislative & Research Committee. She stated the program is taking a hit Statewide, and Saratoga County stands apart from what they have done. We have been accredited for having one of the finer accountability procedures in place, she said. We do not want to have to be thrown out with the bath water, so we will carefully monitor what changes there are, she said. Mr. Jenkins stated the biggest changes will be with the start up companies, as they will be the ones to get hurt. Chairman Daly said she will keep the Committee posted.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann