

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2011 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Daly, Barrett, A. Johnson, Kinowski, Richardson, Southworth, Thompson, and Wood. Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Jim Angus, SEDC; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the December 1, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Daly asked Supervisor Kinowski if he would like to serve as Vice Chairman of the Economic Development Committee? Mr. Kinowski accepted.

Mr. Kemper said the Charlton Snowmobile Club submitted a request to the New York State Parks, their trail grant program to fund a tractor and some drags to groom the snowmobile trail. It will be 80% State, and require a 20% match by the snowmobile club, with no budget impact to the county.

Mr. Kemper said that New York State Parks is requiring a resolution from any municipality that the equipment will be used in, stating that the equipment will be used within the county. The town of Charlton maintains the Zim Smith Trail all the way from Coons Crossing out to Fulton County, so it crosses six or seven towns. Rather than go to each town, Mr. Kemper spoke to New York State Parks, and the county will just have to establish a resolution approving of the grant. This is the same resolution that was done last month for the Zim Smith Trail grant application for additional paving, he said. There will be no budgetary impact to the county. The total grant would be for \$112,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve a resolution of support to apply for a Snowmobile Club Grant in the amount of \$112,000. Unanimous.

Ms. Daly asked how much of the Snowmobile Trail is in Saratoga County? Mr. Kemper said the Charlton Snowmobile Club maintains numerous trails, with approximately 20 miles in Saratoga County. There are a total of nine different clubs in the county, he said.

Mr. Thompson asked if the Snowmobile Club has a liability policy? Mr. Kemper said, yes, they submit a certificate of insurance before the season begins and the county gives them landowner permission to use the Zim Smith Trail, so any parcel that they cover or go across they have to receive a release. Mr. Thompson asked what about the snowmobiles that go on the trail? Mr. Kemper said if they are on a club maintained trail they are covered by that clubs insurance.

Mr. Kemper said there has been an issue with snowmobiles on Oak Street, therefore, the section from Underpass Road to Oak Street will be blocked off to snowmobiles.

Mr. Kemper said every year they do a stormwater management agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension. The money is provided in the budget, which is a total of \$50,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to approve a Stormwater Contract with Cooperative Extension in the amount of \$50,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Sausville asked about the timing? Mr. Kemper said he would not be paying the bill until November or December of 2011.

Mr. Hellwig said Mr. Neils is an employee of Cornell Cooperative Extension and they front all the money. All the grant money that is available to hire the engineers and do the study is all processed through Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the county will pay them at the end of the year. Mr. Kemper said this allows him to get the contract done and set the money aside. When the invoice comes due in the fall it will be paid.

Mr. Kemper said for the first time ever, in the fall, when the county went out to bid on county forestland there was only one bid received. Calls have gone unanswered to the successful bidder after Thanksgiving, and Mr. Kemper said he doesn't believe that a deposit will be received for the cutting of the County Forestland. Normally, we would go to the next highest bidder, he said. Mr. Kemper is requesting direction from the Board of Supervisors on how to proceed. He said Lumax, the company who handles the forestland for the county, has offered to cut the parcel at a reduced rate. The revenue to the county would be a minimum of \$70,000 for the two-year contract.

Ms. Daly asked if timing was an issue? Mr., Kemper said, no. This is a parcel that would allow a spring cutting, when normally everyone else is shut out of jobs because the properties are muddy.

Ms. Daly asked if there was time to re-bid? Mr. Kemper said, yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Sausville to re-bid for the cutting of County Forestland. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said the revenue of \$35,000 allows the county to pay the taxes on the parcels.

Mr. Kemper said there are approximately 370 people signed up for the Planning Conference thus far. He said he would send around a spreadsheet at the Agenda Meeting to allow any Supervisor to sign up if they would like to attend. The conference will be held on January 26, 2011.

Ms. Daly said she had the opportunity to hear a part of the State of the State address, which included the announcement from the Governor for the Regional Economic Development Council. He said in his address, that he agrees with local communities making their own decisions about what sort of economic development should occur in their own municipality. This is something that we have been placing our position on all along here in Saratoga County. Ms. Daly said she looks forward to the opportunity to be involved with the Regional Economic Development Council. This will hopefully be an opportunity for Saratoga County. Ms. Daly said she would work to see how the county could move forward to a partnership. It would make perfect sense, for Saratoga County to be involved in the Regional Economic Development Council with the largest project in the entire nation happening right here.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom