

Economic Development Committee Minutes
February 3, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Johnson; Supervisors Daly, DeLucia, Lent, Richardson, Wood, Barrett, Grattidge, and Wright; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Martin Vanags, Prosperity Partnership; Jason Kemper, Planning; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator; Press.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Johnson announced the appointment of Anita Daly as Committee Vice Chair.

Mr. Kemper said there were three Ag District petitions received, two in the town of Ballston, and one in the Town of Clifton Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Agricultural District Revisions as outlined. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said the Planning Conference was a success with over 500 participants.

Mr. Vanags gave a brief update with regard to activities of the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership as follows:

Attractions Activities

Mr. Vanags said there is an upcoming event in Dallas, Texas, where Alyssa McClenning will be attending. This is an invitation event only with site consultants from the Dallas area; meeting fifteen site consultants on an individual basis. He said site consultants are a small industry of people who spend a lot of time helping corporate America find sites, locations and expansions for their businesses.

Mr. Vanages said since his last report to the committee, two site consultant visits have taken place here.

Business Retention Program

Mr. Vanags said the partnership is in the middle of planning for a comprehensive business retention and expansion program; currently working closely with the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County to partner on a project. The plan is to have at least three hundred company visits over the next year. The partnership is working

with six existing clients in various stages of inquiry with a potential for 355 new jobs and \$11.5 million in new capital investment.

Global Foundries/Luther Forest Technology Campus/Semiconductor

Mr. Vanags said he attended the Semiconductor Industry Association meeting on December 1st through 4th in San Jose, California and was able to meet with a number of companies and CEO's. Mr. Vanags said he is working on a number of projects that he is hopeful will come to fruition in the next six months. He said he will be reporting to the committee in the near future what those projects are. Mr. Vanags said he is also working with Global Foundries to identify supply chain companies that they need and that are close to them.

Mr. Vanags distributed a copy of a two year strategic plan for promoting job creation and economic growth in Saratoga County with the following objectives:

- The partnership will engage in a proactive, targeted and collaborative campaign to attract new business to Saratoga County in key clusters and industries.
- The partnership will engage existing businesses, stakeholders, partners and other economic development agencies in an all-inclusive, multi-year Business Retention and Expansion Campaign that will help the private sector secure new jobs and capital investment in Saratoga County.
- The partnership shall leverage the investment of GLOBALFOUNDRIES and the presence of Luther Forest Technology Park to attract new advanced manufacturing businesses, suppliers and allied industries to increase employment and capital investment in Saratoga County.
- The partnership will build and expand the relationships with appointed and elected officials at local, state and federal government levels to enhance investments in Saratoga County.

Mr. Johnson introduced the topic of an Inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Clifton Park for management of the Kinns Road Reforested Lands. He said this parcel was scheduled for harvesting under the County's Management Plan for harvesting of certain parcels in the county. The Town of Clifton Park had objections to the harvesting of Kinns Road Park as well as many residents voicing their opposition as well. As a result, there were discussions and meetings that have taken place between the County and the Town. After those discussions, it was agreed in principle, that the county and the town would enter into an inter-municipal agreement that will allow Clifton Park to manage that particular parcel. It was also agreed, that the Clifton Park Town Attorney would draft the inter-municipal agreement, which was done and sent to the County Attorney, Steve Dorsey. The County Attorney has reviewed the agreement and has certain suggestions, recommendations and amendments to the proposal that was drafted by the Clifton Park Town Attorney.

Mr. Dorsey said the resolution of 1976 was the first resolution that was adopted by the Board of Supervisors relative to Kinns Road Reforested Land. At that time there were discussions about creating a recreation area on the parcel and the Board wanted to move forward with that directing the forestry department of the county to prepare plans for the construction of a recreation area which would include the installation of restrooms, picnic tables, fireplaces and hiking paths, subject to the approval of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Kemper has been in contact with people who were involved in the forestry department back in 1980 to obtain some background. He was advised that the forestry department at that time was not very active and was eventually disbanded in 1980; therefore, there have never been any restrooms installed. Picnic tables have been installed by the town of Clifton Park. There are no fireplaces, but the Town of Clifton Park has installed some barbecue grills and constructed some trails throughout the parcel.

Mr. Dorsey said the inter-municipal agreement was sent to him by the Clifton Park Town Attorney on January 19, 2016.

Mr. Dorsey outlined changes to the Inter-municipal agreement that he would like to see changed.

- Making the town responsible for addressing reports of encroachments on to the county's lands.

Mr. Barrett said the Town of Clifton Park has been managing the Kinns Road Park for many years. Mr. Kemper is aware of the encroachments and Mr. Barrett and he have had discussions when they have arisen. He said the Town is more than happy to support the County to remedy the situation; however, it is not as though these encroachments are impeding on the usage of the park. He said the Town would be more than happy to work in partnership with the county as they have for many years and look to in the future, but to be solely responsible for dealing with encroachments on a piece of property that the Town of Clifton Park does not own as of yet, he does not think that the Town can nor should take on that responsibility.

- The Town had a provision in the agreement that they may contract with a tree removal service to remove dead and diseased trees. Mr. Dorsey said he feels this is essential and that the Town has a plan in place to begin cutting down trees around the parking lot. He said that over time there could be a lot of dangerous situations with trees that could fall on the trails, and parking lot areas that will need to be addressed over time. He would like to have the word may removed from the agreement.

Mr. Barrett said immediately after it was decided that the Town and County would work in cooperation, and put together a management agreement, the town would assume ownership of the property. The first thing the town thought would be a prudent thing to do would be to hire a professional forester, which they did. He said they put together a very simple plan that was written by the forester, Mr. Cipperly, formalizing what the Town has been doing, which is

managing the park as needed. Mr. Barrett said the agreement initially, in 2016, would be to immediately do some work around the parking lot removing some dead trees.

Mr. Barrett said in 2016 Clifton Park partnered with BOCES, with an insurance contract that holds the County and the Town harmless with insurance as they do the work taking out the dead trees around the parking lot to ensure that the area is safe. He said this would be only taking down dead and dying trees, and there were would no money received.

Mr. Dorsey said no committee as yet has approved entering into a forestry management plan with a town. He said he thought it was premature to allow the Town of Clifton Park to go on the property now and cut the dead trees around the parking lot until the Board of Supervisors actually votes to approve the plan on February 23, 2016. He said he would prefer that nothing happens in terms of tree cutting until after the Board meeting and the Board actually agrees to enter into an inter-municipal agreement to allow the Town of Clifton Park to manage the park.

Mr. Barrett said the reason for the timing was based on what was publicly stated last year, in the fall. The town's course of action, after verbal agreements between the town and the county, was to hire a forester right away and put together a stewardship plan for the forest and then target certain areas for removal of trees that were deemed a concern and get that work done as quickly as possible. He said in a very short time, the town has met every single obligation that was made to the county, and they are ready to move forward with the removal of the trees that were a concern. The partnership with BOCES came about during this process of crafting the stewardship plan.

Mr. Dorsey said the proposed agreement is written with a term of 99 years. He said hand in hand with the agreement was to also pursue home rule legislation which would authorize the county to transfer the property to the town. He said he is proposing a shorter term of 10 years. He said if the county is unsuccessful in getting home rule legislation, the agreement should be reviewed every ten years.

Mr. Dorsey said the town was looking to keep all revenues generated from the timbering operation on the property. He said it is his position that the revenues should be shared equally with the County.

Mr. Barrett said that he doesn't expect that there will be any revenue because in taking out dead and dying trees there will be no generated revenue. He said the Town of Clifton Park is not going to do any large scale timbering. Mr. Barrett said there is an Attorney General's opinion that if there is any revenue from harvest timbering it must go back into the park.

Mr. Barrett said as far as expenses on an annual basis, the Town of Clifton Park manages the park, and doesn't charge the county for any of it.

Mr. Wright said since the park is currently county forest land it should remain in the agreement that any revenue from logs that are cut on the property should be shared with the county.

Mr. Dorsey said the property is exempt from State and County Property Taxes; however there are school taxes on the property of approximately \$1,300. He said the County would like the Town of Clifton Park to be responsible for the payment of those taxes.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the amendments to the Inter-municipal Agreement as outlined by the County Attorney and to move it forward to the Law and Finance Committee. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Lent the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom