

Economic Development Committee Minutes
December 6, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tim Szczepaniak; Supervisors Vince DeLucia, Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Dick Lucia and Tom Wood; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Lisa Scaccia, Employment & Training; Anita Daly, Capital Resource Corporation; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the November 8, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Scaccia said that there are currently three openings on the Workforce Development Board for Saratoga County. Mrs. Scaccia distributed two resumes of potential new board members. Mrs. Scaccia said that Chairman Kinowski had requested that she report to the Economic Development committee prior to their appointment.

The recommendation for the open position from Newport News Shipbuilding is Donna Stone and the recommendation for the position from Bond Schoeneck & King Attorneys is Michael Billok. The third vacancy is from Quad Graphics who are working on identifying a recommendation. Mrs. Scaccia is hoping to have this filled in January.

Mrs. Scaccia said that the Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board, Bill Resse will be retiring some time before the end of June 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to authorize the chair to execute the Saratoga-Warren-Washington LWDA Local Plan for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021 as required by the NYS Department of Labor. Unanimous.

Mrs. Scaccia distributed copies of the plan and gave an overview. Mrs. Scaccia said that she had also distributed the plan by email and it is available on the County website.

Mrs. Scaccia said that the last local plan was dated 2014. At that time the NYS DOL had suspended having to update the plan. They are now requiring an updated plan which will run from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021. The data was compiled from the Department of Labor and other sources. The occupations they show as growing the most in this area are manufacturing, health care and social assistance, finance & insurance and professional, scientific and technical services. Job county in this area in 2008 was 428,619, the figure in 2016 was 443,623. Job gains have been steady and baby boomers coming to retirement age creates additional job openings. Mrs. Scaccia said that the US has a worker shortage and it is becoming increasingly difficult for employers to find people. Mrs. Scaccia said that in the past the career center was once bustling with job seekers and is now bustling with employers seeking workers. Mrs. Scaccia said that some of the funding will be used towards people upgrading their work skills. They are offering monthly career fares at their job center and doing employer matching with their database.

Mrs. Scaccia also noted that the aging of baby boomers also creates greater need for medical services. SUNY Adirondack has started a program called the Health Profession Opportunity

Grant which provides grants for low income individuals looking to go back to school for healthcare. The Employment and Training office can also supplement these grants.

The plan also outlines the core services for career centers which is assisting adults, dislocated workers, and youth. They are currently assisting 33 youth with obtaining their GED, getting into the workforce, paid work experience and adult mentoring services.

Another trend is Career Pathways, which is not just helping an individual with obtaining their first job but assisting individuals in how their career may progress over time.

Mrs. Scaccia said that the plan has been available online for public comment.

Mr. DeLucia said that his Town is also finding it difficult to fill positions due to competitive salaries.

Mrs. Scaccia said that there is an RFP out for the services they provide in Washington County, she will report back to the committee in January once the results have been finalized.

Mrs. Daly gave a brief update on the Saratoga County Capital Resource Committee. Mrs. Daly said that their budget has been submitted as required and is available on their website. Their operating expenses have not increased very much, their largest expense being their auditor costs. Some budget increases include conferences and marketing. Mrs. Daly said that they are a new member of NYSAC. NYSAC can provide the necessary Authority board training for their board members. New brochures, marketing and website will be launched in 2018. Mrs. Daly said that their senior housing project with RW Preservation is just closing with an interest rate of approximately 2%. Mrs. Daly said that at this point they have a growing bank account and have re-examined their fee schedule to make them more attractive to smaller projects. The current fee schedule is a sliding fee of $\frac{3}{4}\%$ for the first \$10M, for the $\frac{1}{2}\%$ for the next \$10M and $\frac{1}{4}\%$ for the next 80M up to 200M. The new fee schedule will be $\frac{3}{4}\%$ for the first \$10M and $\frac{1}{4}\%$ for the next \$10M and fees will be capped at that point.

A motion was made by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the issuance of tax exempt bonds by Saratoga County Capital Resource Corporation to Finance a project for Skidmore College. Unanimous.

Mrs. Daly said that the timeline for this project is to bring the item to this year's Economic Development Committee and then bring the item back to Law and Finance in 2018. The CRC public hearing is scheduled for January 9, 2018. Mrs. Daly said that Skidmore is planning a science center expansion. The first phase will be the north wing portion and focuses on a 60,000 square foot section of the science center. The project cost is \$67.5M. The school has filed a request with the CRC to issue \$35M in bonds. The remaining \$32.5M will be financed through gifts to the college and other school funds. The project will help the school retain 828 full time and 44 part-time positions as well as create 125 construction jobs over two years.

Mrs. Daly said that they are in the process of writing a grant program. They have reached out to the Adirondack Trust and Globalfoundries regarding their grant programs. A sub-committee of CRC is currently working on this project. The board currently meets four times a year and Mrs. Daly is asking the Chairman to re-appoint two expiring board positions.

On a motion was made by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board