

Economic Development Committee Minutes
November 1, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Alan Grattidge, Art Johnson, Jack Lawler, Scott Ostrander, Tom Richardson, Mike Smith, Jean Raymond and Board Chairman Ed Kinowski; Chad Cooke, Deputy County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning Director; Peter Bardunias, Southern Chamber of Commerce; Julie Stokes.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the minutes October 4, 2018 meeting was approved unanimously.

Mr. Kemper said he had been notified by the Town of Moreau that they are ready to be reimbursed for their 2015 Open Space Project. This will move \$15,804.41 out of the Open Space Reserve into the Planning Department's budget to pay this grant.

On a motion by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Johnson unanimous approval was given for the Open Space Reserve Fund Transfer.

Mr. Kemper told the Committee that soon the signs will go up closing the Zim Smith Trail for construction beginning in Round Lake this Fall.

Mr. Ostrander asked what the end of the year balance in the Reserve Fund was. Mr. Cooke said after this project comes out there will be about \$442,000. Mr. Veitch asked if some of that is spoken for. Mr. Kemper will put together a summary and send it out.

Mr. Dorsey said the Town of Saratoga has been working with NYS Office of General Services and Julie Stokes to construct a half mile section of the Champlain Canalway Trail in the Village of Schuylerville. NYS OGS is involved because they own the land upon which this trail would be constructed. The site is actually a landfill in the Village of Schuylerville. Supervisor Wood believes it was last used in the 1950's. NYS OGS is proposing to conduct a limited remediation of the site and cap it so that the trail can be constructed. They are looking for a municipal partner similar to what the County did in Waterford. Supervisor Wood polled the Town Board and they are not interested in being that partner. The County is now being looked at to be that partner. NYS OGS is looking for a commitment from the County to accept an easement to construct the trail. At this time construction is not being spoken of and would be a subject of future resolutions; OGS wants to have a commitment. Mr. Dorsey said the resolution he handed out has additional conditions which are appropriate in terms of the State agreeing to hold the County harmless and indemnify the County as the result of the use of the easement. The State has for the most part agreed with this but have voiced some concerns with the indemnity clause.

Mr. Lawler commended Mr. Dorsey for the writing of this resolution and including these clauses. Mr. Lawler asked who would own the land and who would be maintaining it. Mr. Dorsey said NYS OGS would continue to own the land and he does not have an answer yet as to who would be maintaining the land. Mr. Dorsey presumes whomever is maintaining each end of the trail would maintain the section in the middle. Mr. Lawler said the municipalities that the trail goes through maintain them and that's who should maintain this section. Mrs. Stokes said what is

happening now is trying to encourage NYS to spend the funds to cap the landfill. Mr. Lawler asked if it was known as to why the Town didn't want to be a part of this. Mrs. Stokes said she believes it is because the Town knows what is in the former dump although nothing has shown up on the environmental studies. Mr. Lawler wants to be perfectly clear that the County will not be taking ownership of this piece of property. Mr. Dorsey said it would not.

On a motion by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Johnson unanimous approval was given for the acceptance of an easement from the NYS Office of General Services for the construction of a .5-mile section of the Champlain Canalway Trail.

Mr. Bardunias handed out the Southern Chamber's 2019 Community Development Program. He provided an overview of 2018 which included maintaining existing projects. The Saratoga County Fair tent was a big accomplishment for the Chamber and the County Departments. There were thousands of pamphlets and information disseminated. There are Rest Area Display screens that promote events. The Waterford Canal festival was organized this year by the Chamber. WTEN televised the event for 4.5 hours and also showcased agriculture. Looking ahead to 2019 Mr. Bardunias said there are many projects. Project #1 is the continuation and maintenance of past initiatives including keeping Lock 19 maintained and cleaned, the Mechanicville Gazebo and the Saratoga County Fair to name just a few. Project #2 is to continue coordinating Area 3 project along the Hudson River in Halfmoon which could be one half billion dollars in industrial development investments. Project #3 would be to capitalize on the rest area information, the Fair tent, and the area festivals/events. There is so much information that can be seen at these venues and the Chamber would be happy to share all the municipalities information if they are provided it. Project #4 is to create a referral center for Marine Services. Mr. Bardunias would like to do this so that boaters that have issues or need maintenance would have a resource to be able to find what is readily available to help. These resources would be in a catalog. Project #5 is to develop and maintain a community development menu in consultation with local communities. Mr. Bardunias said he is looking for more feedback and helpful tools.

Mr. Lawler asked what the Chamber was asking for. Mr. Veitch said \$40,000 and added the budget was just released and he didn't know if it was included. Mr. Cooke said generally Mr. Hellwig reports that at the Law and Finance Budget Hearings.

On a motion by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Barrett unanimous support was given for the Southern Chamber of Commerce's request for funding for the 2019 budget year from \$30,000 (2018 funding level) to \$40,000 (2019 request) for their 2019 Community Development Plan.

On a motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Wright
Clerk of the Board