

Economic Development Committee Minutes
May 13, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Jack Lawler; Committee Members Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Jean Raymond, Tom Richardson, Jon Schopf, Kevin Tollisen; Supervisors Alan Grattidge, Tom Wood and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Jenniffer McCloskey, Employment & Training; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer

Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance both in person and via the phone.

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to approve the Workforce Development Board budget for program year 2020-2021 for \$96,400 and authorizing agreements with Warren and Washington Counties to fund WDB services. Unanimous.

Ms. McCloskey said that this is the same amount as in the past few years. It pays for the salaries of the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director and other administrative costs such as travel, mileage and marketing. Ms. McCloskey said that funding has not been reduced this year for the Workforce Development Board, however the overall Federal Funding for the Employment & Training Department has taken a hit of 17% beginning July 1 of this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to discuss a contract with J.J. Young, LLC to provide administrative services for the Workforce Development Board. No action was taken.

Ms. McCloskey said that JJ Young are an administrative payroll service that processes and pays the payroll for the Executive and Associate Executive Director. Under WIOA laws, the County is not authorized to pay them directly and therefore have to contract with an outside agency. The cost of the contract is \$7,745 per year and is included in the previously approved WDB budget. Ms. McCloskey clarified that JJ Young process payroll, withhold payroll taxes, reimburse mileage etc. and then voucher the County for reimbursement. Mrs. Raymond asked how recently this service has gone out to bid; it has been years. Mrs. Raymond said that she believes the price is high for the number of people involved, she does her entire Town for less than what they are charging for two employees. It was decided to defer this item for a month so that Ms. McCloskey can call several local agencies to get pricing on the services being provided.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to authorize an agreement with the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. to administer the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I Adult Program services and Dislocated Workers Program in Washington County. Unanimous.

Ms. McCloskey said that a contract is necessary as Washington County EOC is a not for profit entity. This was put out to bid in 2018 and the contract was awarded as a 1 year agreement with two additional 1-year extensions. This is the last 1-year extension. There is a decrease in the amount of this year's contract which reflects the funding cut effective July 1.

A motion was made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to authorize an agreement with Washington County EOC for the administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program in Washington County. Unanimous.

Ms. McCloskey said that this contract also has a decreased amount due to the cut in funding. This is also the last extension on the original agreement. In 2021 both contracts with EOC will be sent out to bid and combined into one.

Mr. Lawler said that an announcement was made yesterday that a Saratoga County Re-opening Advisory Board had been formed. There will be a meeting on Friday May 15th at 3pm. Mr. Lawler encouraged anyone, and all the Economic Development committee members to attend. The Charter for this has not yet been fully defined and will be part of the conversation with the group on Friday. There is some general direction from the Chairman, they see this committee as another voice to represent the businesses of Saratoga as we all struggle through re-opening the economy in Saratoga County. The way this is organizationally structured, there is the Executive Department – the Governor and from there, the State is working with regional entities, mirroring economic development regions. Each of the regions has created a Control Room, which has representatives from each of the 8 counties. Each of the 8 counties has a representative in that room to ask questions, advocate, push for answers, get clarification. So it is important that we have some way for the business community to have a voice in those meetings. Mr. Lawler said that he believes one of the very important roles that the advisory group can have, will be to be that voice, provide communication channel in two directions. From the Control Room and the Governors people to the businesses in our community, but also we are expecting considerable confusion, questions, clarification on how businesses will be able to re-open, when they re-open and under what circumstances. There are a lot of guidelines that the control room has and this information has to get out. Mr. Lawler said that this group is purely advisory in nature, it has no authority to enact policy, or represent Saratoga County other than an advisory group. Mr. Lawler said he is looking forward to participation from the people on the advisory group and also participation from all of the Board of Supervisors. As we go forward to re-opening there is a lot of uncertainty, and Mr. Lawler is hoping that this Board can play a role in dispelling some of this uncertainty and be a source of good actionable information for the business community, also giving the Board and the Control Room group the concerns, ideas, suggestions of our business community. Mr. Lawler said that they have also asked a representative of the Empire State Development to be at Friday's meeting. Mr. Lawler said that Todd Shimkus has already done some legwork in communicating with businesses, and thanked him for that. Mr. Schopf asked if there would be any representation of businesses communities deemed by the Governor as non-essential such as retail centers, restaurant groups etc. Mr. Lawler said that this is one of the many suggestions he hopes to get and is happy to bring it up with the group on Friday. A short answer is that he would hope Mr. Shimkus would be their voice, but has no objection to adding another member to make sure they are hearing from the right people. Mr. Schopf also noted that Clifton Park is not represented and they are the largest retail sales tax generator in the County. Mr. Lawler said that the intent was to get a diversity

of representation throughout the County, there are representatives from Saratoga Springs and Halfmoon and assuming those retail operations would have similar questions and concerns. No slight was intended, but he believes there is pretty good representation across the board. Mr. Schopf asked if the committee would be reporting back to the Economic Development committee or the Board directly. Mr. Lawler said that right now they are structured to report back to the Chairman and the Administrator, however he has no problem bringing committee recommendations and activity back to this committee so that everyone is sharing the same information.

Mrs. Raymond mentioned some of the nuances or rules sometimes have little reality to the business on the ground. Her town had a problem with construction, for example some instances having one person on the job which in her opinion can be very unsafe having one person working alone. Mrs. Raymond said that situations changing as they unfold can be very distressing. Large businesses are capable of getting their thoughts out but smaller may not. Mr. Lawler said that they want to hear from the different situations. As questions were being asked by the 8 counties representatives, it was clear that the details of reopening the economy have not been finalized to how it will apply to every business and every circumstance. His hope is to have an opportunity to influence or accelerate some of these decisions to get information back. Mrs. Raymond also gave an example of a small restaurant that was told by their supplier they would need to switch to all disposable plates, etc. whereas some larger restaurants have the necessary sanitation equipment to be able to use their own dishes. Mrs. Raymond said that this is an example of where she would like to get ahead of the curve, so that they are not finding this out a week prior to being allowed to open up. Mr. Lawler said that he envisions taking subsections of the group to work with different industries and even different phases of the reopening.

Mr. Kinowski said that during a recent call with Carrie Woerner, it was mentioned when businesses re-open there are liability concerns. Assemblywoman Woerner mentioned a legislative shield that could protect people as they come back into general public service. Mr. Lawler said that the Federal Government has been actively discussing a national liability policy on re-opening. He believes similar discussions are taking place in the Legislature.

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board