

Economic Development Committee Minutes  
March 3, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Joe Grasso, Jon Schopf, Kevin Tollisen, Sandra Winney, Tom Wood; Supervisor John Lant; Steve Bulger, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Hugh Burke, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Andrew Jarosh, Treasurer; Dustin Lewis, Soil & Water; Rod Sutton, Saratoga County IDA.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Wood, the minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Ms. Gaston, to authorize the creation of a new reserve account, A-0888.ED for unspent monies related to the Municipal Economic Development Assistance grant program. Unanimous.**

Mr. O'Connor said that this reserve account would be similar to what we have for Trails and Open Space currently, where if there is un-expensed amounts for the program at the end of the year, those funds will be kept in a reserve account for future use. There is \$150,000 appropriated for this program in the 2021 budget. Mr. O'Connor said that he believes the intent would be to use those funds for projects that are ongoing, and then if there is an need for additional funding, it could come out of this reserve. \$38,255.98 was spent from the 2020 funds for Halfmoon, Greenfield, Providence, Mechanicville, Saratoga Springs, and Edinburg. The remaining \$111,744.02 would be the initial setup of this fund.

Mr. Lewis gave an update regarding a septic system program. Mr. Lewis said that in 2018 DEC along with Environmental Facilities Corporation made money available around the State. It was only focused on watersheds that are impacted by septic systems, failing septic systems. Dwaas Kill was identified as one of the septic system affected areas. In total there were about 350 parcels that were within that 250 foot boundary. A letter was sent out to each parcel owner notifying them that they were eligible for funding. The letter also included a septic system health awareness handout, an application if they were if they were interested in having work done on their septic system, and a letter from either Supervisor Tollisen or Supervisor Barrett, depending on which town it was in. There were approximately 300 parcels in Clifton Park and 50 in Halfmoon. To date only five parcels have been completed. The reimbursement is for up to \$10,000 for a project at a 50% reimbursement rate. The original five year term is coming up but the State has extended it another five years. Therefore there is time. Of the \$150,000 that was awarded to begin with, there's still \$125,000 roughly left to spend. Mr. Barrett said that he believes the best course of action is to resend information to the parcel owner and requested that Mr. Lewis draft an updated letter for Supervisors Barrett and Tollisen to send out. Mr. Grasso asked if the grant would cover someone having their tanks pumped. Mr. Lewis said that if repairs require it, that cost is usually worked into the overall cost, but pumping alone is not eligible.

Mr. Sutton gave an update on Saratoga County IDA projects. They have had several projects that they approved PILOT programs for including; Coretec in the Town of Ballston with a \$1.7 million addition to their existing 27,000 square foot manufacturing facility, 574 Hudson River Road, LLC in the Town of Halfmoon with a \$600,000 project to add 7,000 square feet, a new press in Quad Graphics a \$45 million project securing the jobs of 650 employees, Litchfield Holding, LLC in Halfmoon which is an \$11 million project on a 33 acre site with a building of 82,000 square feet. This is going to be the Athletic Center for basketball and volleyball which will also draw people for tournaments, adding to the economy also by hotel use, restaurants etc.

The Victory Mills project, which is headed up by Reagan Development is bringing new life into the old plant in Victory. This is a \$55M project for affordable housing in Victory.

Aerosmith, a female owned business based in Saratoga Springs. There are 20 people in her corporate office. They sell cell tower contracts and also perform maintenance of cell towers throughout New York State.

Mr. Sutton also said that the COVID grant program has been extremely successful. To date they have allocated over \$500K to small businesses that have been impacted by COVID. Grants range from a few hundred to up to \$10K. There is currently \$225K remaining funds in that program.

Mr. Schopf gave an update on the Clifton Park IDA. The Clifton Park IDA has been able to allocate just over \$143K to 45 separate businesses in the Town of Clifton Park for their COVID grant program. There is approximately \$7K remaining in that fund. They are hoping to be able to rejuvenate the fund balance to provide another large allocation to this program.

**A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Schopf, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board