

Economic Development Committee Minutes
December 1, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Joe Grasso, Jon Schopf, Tom Wood, Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Pete Bardunias, Capital Region Chamber; Ray O’Conor, Capital Resource Corporation.

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

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

Mr. Bardunias provided an overview of the Capital Region Chamber handout distributed with the agenda. This is the 11th year that the Chamber and the County have partnered on community development. Mr. Bardunias reported that funding in the amount of \$1.575M was provided to local businesses through the Capital Region Advancement Fund, this supported 19 businesses in Saratoga County. An additional funding of \$1.25M was provided through the Small Business Recovery Grant Program through Empire State Development. Mr. Bardunias reported that they are still pursuing the Area 3 project in Halfmoon. The rest area at Exit 9 was fully staffed this summer. In 2022 they plan on providing educational awareness for farm and marina owners and the challenges they face.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Wood, to approve the issuance of certain obligations by the Michigan Finance Authority to finance certain projects located in Saratoga County for Saint Peter’s Health Partners and affiliates as required by section 147(f) of the internal revenue code of 1986. Unanimous.

Mr. O’Conor said that they received the application a few weeks ago. A public hearing is being held today at 3pm. Trinity Health is a multi-state health care agency undertaking an out of state bond issue not to exceed \$405M, up to \$20M of which would be invested through St. Peter's Health Partners, one of their affiliates. The \$20M would constitute both refinancing of some existing debt and investments in capital projects, equipment, etc. for the Schuyler Ridge Facility in Clifton Park, that's under the ownership of St. Peters. This is not a direct debt issue of the Capital Resource Corporation, but it does require local approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to designate the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce as the County’s Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) and authorizing the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce to apply for an “I Love NY” Grant for 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Tollisen, to authorize the 3rd Quarter payment to Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership. The motion passed. Supervisor Schopf opposed.

Mr. Barrett said that the payment is in the amount of \$112,500. There has been some concern as far as where the bed tax may end up this year and how much funding would be appropriated to the Partnership. In this case, going forward with the 3rd payment makes sense. Mr. Tollisen suggested that summary report from the Partnership be provided. Mr. Barrett said that Mr. Dunn and Mr. Rose have been working together over the past few months to stabilize the organization after the loss of the final two employees. They are also engaging in partnerships with SEDC and the IDA.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Wood, to approve a Municipal Planning Grant to the Town of Charlton in the amount of \$7,100. Unanimous.

Mr. Grasso said that the application is for investment in the Community Center which is owned by the Town and used by many groups to facilitate different organizations that serve the community and the County as a whole. They are planning capital improvements and the first step is to conduct engineering and architectural work.

A motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve payments of Municipal Planning Grants to the Towns of Greenfield, Hadley, Saratoga and Wilton. Unanimous.

Mr. Rose said that the Town of Greenfield award was used on an advertising campaign aimed at driving sales and increasing awareness in local businesses. Town of Hadley was phase 2 of their initial plan which is developing maps and marketing promotions for walking tours. Town of Saratoga used their grant funds to update the Town's comprehensive plan. The Town of Wilton used their funds to make some much needed repairs at a local business which is owned by a military veteran and his family. Mr. Rose said that there are a few municipalities that have not yet submitted for reimbursement.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board