

Economic Development Committee Minutes
July 2, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Lawler; Supervisors Daly, Grattidge, Johnson, Kinowski, Richardson, Wood, Martin and Wright; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Lisa Scaccia, Employment and Training; Jamie O'Neill, Planning; Peter Bardunias, Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce; Michael Relyea, Tom Roohan, Luther Forest Technology Campus; Greg Connors, Global Foundries; Matt Jones, The Jones Firm; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Johnson the minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lawler said the inaugural meeting of the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership was held with an item discussed at the meeting was funding for the Prosperity Partnership. In consultation with the County Administrator and his staff, the Partnership would like to be funded with the balance of the Economic Development funds that remain in the 2014 budget. This will be necessary for the Prosperity Partnership to move forward with engaging a recruiter, hiring staff, etc.

Mr. Wright asked if there were any other funding streams envisioned for the Partnership. Mr. Grattidge said there is a possible revenue stream coming with the Casino ventures. Moving forward, it would be very appropriate for the County to look at that.

Mr. Lawler said there is the unanimous support of the Board of Supervisors to adopt the plan. He said he feels that the Board will build on that to make sure that the Partnership has the resources they need to do the job and do it well.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to authorize the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership, Inc. to provide and oversee all economic development activities identified in the recently adopted Saratoga County Economic Development Plan; and to transfer at a sum of \$446,400 to the Prosperity Partnership. Unanimous.

Mr. Lawler said there would be no budget impact and all costs associated with the agreement have been included in the 2014 budget.

Mrs. Scaccia gave a brief update on the Saratoga County Summer Youth program stating that currently there are 80 youth enrolled, with anticipation of a total of 85 youth working in seventeen different municipalities throughout the county. The average hours per week will be 25 at an hourly rate of \$8.00. She said the importance of the program is to teach low income youth between the ages of 14 and 20 how to enter the workforce. Mrs. Scaccia said the

program will be in effect through August 29th, with some youth extended through the end of September as budget hours allow.

Ms. Daly asked if the program provided any transportation for youth. Mrs. Scaccia said there are funds for funding some gas cards through the program, and also the ability to encourage carpooling. She said CDTA has a bus pass for youth 17 and under where they can ride for \$30 all summer anywhere in the county.

Mr. Kinowski said predicated on the job that they are being asked to do, could a town supplement income. Mrs. Scaccia said if a town would like to pick up additional hours they would be able to do that. She said if any town is interested in doing that to contact her office.

Mrs. O'Neill said during 2014 Saratoga County is required to conduct a review of Ag District No. 2 which takes into account the towns of Malta, Providence, Clifton Park, Galway, Milton and City of Saratoga Springs encompassing approximately 53,454 acres of land. The Board of Supervisors received the 300 day notice from Ag and Markets in January, letting the county know that the review had to be conducted and closed by November 17th, which is the anniversary date for the district.

After receiving notice, the Board of Supervisors had a required public comment period from March 15, 2014 to April 15, 2014. During that time anyone with a viable agricultural land in Ag District 2 could ask to be included in the district or they can ask to be pulled from the district. She said removals can only happen during the eight year review. There were two separate partitions that requested to be included in the district located in the Town of Hadley. Two requests for deletion were received from the Town of Ballston.

Mr. Lawler said in 2013 and again in 2014 on behalf of the Economic Development Committee the Board of Supervisors presented \$225,000 in grants to the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Bardunias gave a brief power point presentation on the Saratoga County Community Development Program. The achievements in the first half of 2014 are as follows:

- Engaged students in historic preservation, i.e., Historic Lock 19 and Brookside Museum.
- Continued the "changing face of Tech Valley"
- Engaged Momentive and other corporate partners in the Mechanicville Train Station, Historic Lock 19 Waterford Community Business Alliance.
- Gave Charlton businesses much needed publicity
- Helped start and promote new businesses in Waterford and elsewhere.
- Successfully opened a new food distribution channel to benefit Saratoga County farmers
- Assisted a startup business to redevelop a historic building in Clifton Park

Mr. Wood said dredging of PCB's from the river have been taking place for a number of years. This year they will be dredging a 14 mile section between Schuylerville and Stillwater where they are at or slightly ahead of schedule. The plan is that the dredging will be completed by the end of 2015. The concerns of residents that live in the flood plain areas from Moreau to Waterford, is that GE is concentrating on the river as per the agreement that they entered into, but it is a known fact that there are other PCB's in flood plain areas and areas adjacent to the river. GE is thinking that the dewatering facility in Fort Edward will be closed down once the dredging is completed.

Mr. Wood said there are a number of agencies that have worked with GE through the entire process, including EPA, Canal Corp. and DEC. He said the county needs their support to make sure that the dewatering plant is not shut down because the other PCB's that are there need to be taken care of for health and safety reasons.

Mr. Wood said if the PCB's that are in the old canal are not removed, every time it floods in Schuylerville, the old canal floods over and sediment from the old canal which has PCB's in it flows into the area where the water treatment plant is and into the water recreational area where it would create a safety and health issue.

Mr. Wood said the other issue with regard to an economic development standpoint, is that there are many projects in the planning stage, from Moreau to Waterford.

Mr. Wood requested a resolution of support that additional testing be done in all of the flood plain area, and that appropriate remediation gets done so that economic development can take place.

Mr. Richardson said the old canal floods annually in the Village of Schuylerville and the problem is that the sediment is full of PCB's. He said it is 19 feet above the wells, and if there was a breach of the system, Schuylerville and the Village of Victory would lose their water supply, and there is no secondary source.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Kinowski to urge that the EPA, GE and all the involved state and federal agencies undertake a serious evaluation of the flood plains and back water areas including the Old Champlain Canal in the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory and assure for the citizens and business of the "Upper River" that PCB's and Navigational Dredging are completed before the Dewatering Facility is shut down. Unanimous.

Mr. Jones said there is an extensive administrative effort to gain traction in Malta with regard to amendments to the Planned Development District (PDD). After discussion it was concluded that it would take legislation to do that. In March, it was worked out with Global Foundries and LFTC to work as a co-applicant for amendments in not only Malta but in Stillwater as well. Work began on May 1st with regard to obtaining amendment applications for both Malta and Stillwater by the second week in September.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Daly the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom