

Economic Development Committee Minutes
March 3, 2022 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kevin Tollisen; Committee Members Joe Grasso, Mark Hammond, Kevin Veitch, Matt Veitch; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, Stephanie Hodgson, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Planning; Jenniffer McCloskey, Employment & Training; Blue Neils, Stormwater Management Cornell Cooperative Extension; Dennis Brobston, Saratoga Economic Development Corporation.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Matt Veitch, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, to authorize the acceptance of an additional \$74,265.21 in grant funds from the Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant. Unanimous.

Ms. McCloskey said that this is to accept additional funding for a grant that was awarded in 2020. It was an emergency grant from the New York State Department of Labor for those employees laid off or affected by COVID. The original grant amount was approximately \$43,000. Every area in the state was awarded money and not everyone spent theirs, so they recaptured and redistributed. This is now accepting approximately \$74,000 for Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. Of which \$38,811 is designated for Saratoga County.

A motion was made by Mr. Hammond, seconded by Mr. Matt Veitch, to authorize a three-year agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension for the management of the Saratoga County MS4 Stormwater program. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper said that the funding for this agreement is provided from the Planning Department. The amount for 2022 is \$194,441.58 and there is a 1.5% escalation clause for 2023 and 2024. This is used as a match to the DEC Stormwater Program and those grant funds.

Mr. Neils said that letters were sent to the Board of Supervisors via email. As mentioned in the email, the draft MS4 general permit has several municipal personnel and himself worried because it has a great deal of requirements in it. Intermunicipal Stormwater Management Program staff, local representatives and contractors have been meeting biweekly to discuss the draft and areas of concern. They have identified financial, pragmatic and legal impacts. Currently the deadline for submittal of comments is Monday. Mr. Neils said that they would like to request a simple stay to give additional time to look through the permit and provide comments they feel can guide the Department of Environmental Conservation to a more successful outcome. Mr. Neils said that consensus with the other organized MS4 Communities across the State is to try to rally their State representatives to speak out to the Commissioner. Mr. Tollisen said that he forwarded Mr. Neils letter to the Chairman of the Board and thought that discussion with the County's Senate and Assembly representatives would be better coming from the Chairman as the collective voice of the

County. Mr. Tollisen said that it is a very short timeline. Mr. Bulger said that his office can work with the Chairman to get a letter signed by Friday. He will work with Mr. Kemper and Mr. Neils on this, to get correspondence to all six members of the County's Senate and Assembly delegation no later than Monday and follow up with some phone calls also to make them aware of the urgency of this.

Mr. Matthew Veitch said that there was an article in the Business Review this week regarding the Prosperity Partnership and the future of that organization. Mr. Matthew Veitch said that he believes the Partnership is an LDC that was created, that there may also be some tax implications regarding revenue, and asked what the next steps in the process are from the County's perspective. Mr. Hartnett said that it's a multi-faceted answer. It involves components such as Home Rule legislation to potentially advocate for a change in the tax law provisions as well as under the not for profit corporation law. He would anticipate that if there is unused revenue from the Partnership, it would be refunded under the current agreement, and as he understands it, if the funds were returned to the County, they would need to be used for economic development purposes.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Veitch, seconded by Mr. Hammond, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board