

# Economic Development Transcript 4-7-2022

## **SPEAKERS**

Steve Bulger, Phil Barrett, Matt Veitch, Jenniffer McCloskey, Kevin Veitch, Kevin Tollisen, Several Supervisors, Mark Hammond

### **Kevin Tollisen**

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to Economic Development. Attendance has been taken we have a quorum. Could I have someone make a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3 2022 meeting?

### **Kevin Veitch**

So moved.

### **Mark Hammond**

Second.

### **Kevin Tollisen**

Motion made and seconded any further discussion. All in favor?

### **Several Supervisors**

Aye.

### **Kevin Tollisen**

Any opposed? Motion is carried. The big line item number three Director McCloskey you are up.

### **Jenniffer McCloskey**

So today is really just an update on some of the projects that we have going on over in Employment and Training. One is to let everyone know that we are accepting applications for our Summer Youth Employment Program. So we're accepting applications for job seekers and anyone who wants to be a worksite. So all of that information is available on the homepage of our County webpage. But if you have any questions on the Summer Youth Program, I know a lot of you have some of our kids at your municipalities. So if anyone wants to start the program in their municipality, just let me know. The next project that I've been working on for quite some time, as we know, with the pandemic, a lot of workforce issues have been brought to the forefront and one being childcare. So we went after a grant, me and my counterpart in Warren County, went after a grant to address childcare deserts, we have a lot of areas in this county that are not off the Northway corridor, and really have no options for childcare. So the grant funding that we received is going to be to train and support people who want to open in home daycare centers. So we're partnering with Brightside Up here in Saratoga County to provide the training, the funds will also help with any improvements that needs to be made to people's homes. So it's a really comprehensive program, where we provide the supportive services to make people be successful. And as we know, in childcare, you get into it for the love of children, not for the money. So they're not necessarily businesspeople. But there's obviously tax and different financial reporting. So

we're going to help with that, too. So I wanted to let you know about that. Christine and I are working on kind of a marketing campaign around that. So if you have anyone that's interested in opening an in home daycare center, send them my way, we got some funding, and we need to spend it. And, the last one is really exciting. I've been working with Supervisor Barrett on this for quite some time. And he came to me, and let me know about his concerns for EMS workers in our municipalities and the shortage that we're seeing coming up. So we've collaborated with Hudson Valley, Shenendehowa, and Clifton Park Halfmoon EMS. And so we are announcing our program that is going to begin in June, where we are working with Shen. to identify students from the health care services classes to enroll them in Hudson Valley for EMT training, and we're gonna pay for the tuition, supportive services, transportation if they need it. And we're really excited about it. And I couldn't do it without you. So thank you.

**Phil Barrett**

Couldn't do it without you.

**Jennifer McCloskey**

It was awesome. So many people involved in getting this together. And we didn't know if it was gonna happen, but we just got the green light. So we're really excited about it. And those are the programs that we have that are kicking off now. So if you have any questions, just let me know.

**Kevin Veitch**

I just have one, the EMT pilot program for the youth, is that related to certain Towns?

**Jennifer McCloskey**

So we're doing a pilot program right now with Shen. in Clifton Park in that area.

**Kevin Veitch**

Just that school basically.

**Jennifer McCloskey**

For right now we want to, you know, get all the kinks out and I know that this is going to be replicable all across the County. So we're gonna see how it goes this year and then roll it out.

**Kevin Veitch**

Good luck with that.

**Jennifer McCloskey**

Thank you.

**Kevin Tollisen**

Supervisor,

**Phil Barrett**

Mr. Chairman, thank you. Yeah, I do want to thank Jen, Rose Bower at Shen., Dr. Robinson and his staff, Chairman Tollisen, because this is a very important program. And it was really born of a conversation I had with Mike McAvoy, who I think all of you know. We were riding around on a golf cart during our July 4 festivities in the Town of Clifton Park, and he scared the hell out of me about how the staffing was going not only locally, but nationally when it comes to EMS personnel and none of us want to ever get to the point where us or a loved one, or any of our residents are making a phone call to 911 and there's nobody that they could call. So we need to redouble our efforts to try to recruit youngsters into this type of career. So how do we do that? Well, you do it with marketing, and eliminating as many barriers as possible. So, Jen, she was my first call, we had a meeting with Shen. and other parties, certainly Clifton Park EMS, Clifton Park Halfmoon EMS, which Supervisor Tollisen and I worked closely with, they were a big part of this, and they're a main partner. And as we work with Shen, to get the word down to the kids directly trying to recruit right in the schools, that's going to be an important component of this, I just want to thank Jen for, sorry for, I've been plugging her quite a bit over the last six or eight months, but she's been great. And, you know, our partners have been fantastic to this point, I just came from the Shen job fair. A lot of kids looking for jobs. And so I think the interest will come in eliminating the barrier of the tuition. And a lot of times, it's just showing kids where to take the first step, right? So guiding, you know, going to them, telling them about the opportunity, having a convenient program close to home, and then eliminating the cost barrier, you do all that, hopefully, you'll generate interest and get kids into the program. So again, thank you so much, Jen, for all your work there and everything else you're doing.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Thank you. And one important thing to point out about the EMT program, is we're not just putting them through EMT training, they're going to be enrolled at Hudson Valley, they're going to get seven credits at the completion of the course, we're really looking at it as a career pathway into the medical field. So paramedic, licensed nursing, a doctor, it happens, you know, so we're really looking at it as not just training for a job, but as a career pathway. And, you know, 85% of Shen students go on to a four year school, there's that 15% that we need to target for trades and non-traditional jobs because they're obviously needed. So we're really excited.

**Kevin Tollisen**

When does it start?

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

June 27. And all of the classes are going to be held at the Tech Smart campus in Malta which is really convenient for everybody.

**Phil Barrett**

And Supervisor Tollisen, I will be there May 3 for the first kind of kickoff deal where.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Yeah, it's really cool for recruiting. We're bringing the ambulances to the school while they have the health services courses going on. So we will make it exciting for the kids.

**Phil Barrett**

Yeah.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Give them some stethoscopes.

**Phil Barrett**

If you could send that information out to the committee. That'd be great.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Yeah, it should be in the agenda item.

**Matt Veitch**

Yeah. Mr. Chair. Not really question, more of a statement. So one of my roles is I serve as the Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee at NYSAC. And this has really been one of our focuses for probably a couple of years, the shortage of EMTs, and volunteers for the Fire and EMS service throughout the state. So we on our level, we've advocated at the state level to try to get, you know, better laws, regulations surrounding this, so more people be interested in the field. But I'd really love to see how this turns out. I mean, I know I'm trying to get to the finish line before we've even gotten to the start line. But you know, if this works out well, and it can be brought in, you know, throughout the County, this may be something that, you know, other counties might want to model as well.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Absolutely. And, you know, we work closely with Warren and Washington County as our local workforce area. So they're all waiting to see how we do.

**Matt Veitch**

So yeah, I mean, it could be spread throughout the state, which really, you know, again, let me know, because I'm happy to bring that to NYSAC.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Yeah. And they're also doing something similar in Troy, the Troy Fire Department. So we're actually sharing an instructor.

**Matt Veitch**

Oh, cool.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Yeah. Which is cool. And, you know, depending on enrollment, and we're starting off with six kids, if we get more interest, we will add more instructors. So yeah, we're looking to hit as many people and make friends. So

**Kevin Tollisen**

How many classes are seven credits?

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

So it's an intensive program. So they you know, it definitely is going to take the right students to be successful with it. It is going from its Monday through Thursday, 9 to 1:30 and it goes until September 8. So it's about 140 hours of classroom time, and then an additional 10 hours of ride along time. And, you know, with the ambulance course. So it's intensive, but that's why we wanted to do it obviously during the summer, we don't want to put this on someone's plate when they're in school.

**Kevin Tollisen**

And assuming this is successful in September is that when you're looking at it to expand it to other parts of the County?

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

Yeah, absolutely, we don't have to stick with the summer model, it just kind of worked for the population that we were looking at. And this time, if you spread out there training, you can probably do it year round. But there's a lot of coordination, because it's not just the EMT training, it's the enrolling in the school and making sure that there's instructors available and that it fits with the school schedule. And we also have to get approval from the Department of Health. So there's a lot of moving parts, but you know, it doesn't have to be in the summer. And it doesn't have to be at Tech Smart you know, we have a lot of flexibility.

**Kevin Veitch**

Can I make a comment?

**Kevin Tollisen**

Sure.

**Kevin Veitch**

Coming from the Town of Greenfield and we just started our first ambulance service three months ago, and we put a lot of money into this system. And it's you know, it's exciting for the small towns to be able to do something like this. And our first challenge has been staffing. And our success is going to be based on staffing. And the success of this expanding into other small towns that don't have this is going to make a big difference. So I really hope it works out for you. I really hope we can see this spread out through the whole County, because it's really important.

**Jenniffer McCloskey**

And I think it's important to you know, test the bugs and but really show how this can be successful and be a career pathway. You know, everyone is struggling to fill positions everywhere but it's so important to have these pieces of infrastructure in place, you know, so and keep them here too.

**Kevin Tollisen**

Any other Supervisors, anyone else? Any Supervisor on the phone have any comments, or questions? All right. Very good. Thank you so much. Sounds very exciting. Any other business to come before this committee today?

**Steve Bulger**

Yes, Mr. Chairman, just a quick update on the Economic Development grants from the County. That program had been in previous years managed by the Prosperity Partnership that has now transitioned over to our Planning and Economic Development Department. So all you Supervisors should be seeing information on that this month. As we roll that out. It's 71. I believe it's \$7,100 for all 23 municipalities, so very similar to the last couple of years. More to follow.

**Kevin Tollisen**

Thank you. Awesome. Anyone else? Motion to adjourn.

**Kevin Veitch**

So moved.

**Mark Hammond**

Second.

**Kevin Tollisen**

All in favor?

**Several Supervisors**

Aye.

**Kevin Tollisen**

Have a great afternoon everyone.