



Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:30PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Minutes

Present: Chairman Mark Hammond; Committee Members C. Eric Butler, Joe Grasso, Jean Raymond, Kevin Tollisen, Kevin Veitch, Sandra Winney.
Supervisor Phil Barrett.

Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Audra Hedden, Stephanie Hodgson, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michelle Granger, County Attorney; Jason Kemper, Kim Lambert, Planning & Economic Development; Jenniffer McCloskey, Employment & Training. Greg Connors, SEDC; Darryl Leggieri, Discover Saratoga.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kevin Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, the minutes of the June 28, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Hammond introduced Greg Connors new President and CEO of Saratoga Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Connors introduced himself to the Committee and provided an overview of his professional career to date.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jean Raymond, seconded by Mrs. Sandra Winney, to authorize an agreement with ECC Technologies, Inc. for the provision of a broadband feasibility study in the Towns of Hadley, Day, Edinburg, Providence, and Corinth. Unanimous.

Nine vendors responded to the RFP. ECC was the lowest bidder. The study should take approximately 6 months to complete. \$48,187 is the total contract amount. Discussion ensued. Mr. Grasso requested that the results of the study be shared with all County Supervisors.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Kevin Veitch, to authorize a budget transfer from Occupancy Tax Revenue to the Campaign For Saratoga 250, Inc. Unanimous.

Mr. Bulger distributed an occupancy tax report, the report is attached to these minutes. Mr. Bulger reported on the activities and initiatives of Campaign for Saratoga 250. Transfer is in the amount of \$100K. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Tollisen, seconded by Mrs. Jean Raymond, to designate the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau, also known as Discover Saratoga, as the County’s Tourism Promotion Agency and authorizing the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau to apply for an “I Love New York” grant for 2024. Unanimous.

Mr. Bulger reported that the Tourism Promotion Agency for the County has been the Chamber of Commerce for several years, this is now being switched to the Saratoga Convention & Tourism Bureau effective January 2024. Mr. Leggieri introduced himself to the Committee and gave a brief overview of the activities and goals of the Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Butler, Committee approval to approve the reimbursement request for the City of Saratoga Springs, and to authorize the transfer of funds from the Economic Development Grant Reserve Fund and amending the 2023 County budget in relation thereto. Motion Passed. Mr. Grasso recused himself from any discussion and vote.

Mr. Kemper reported that \$21,300 is the transfer amount.

A motion was made by Mr. Grasso, seconded by Mr. Butler, Committee approval to extend the deadline date of the Economic Development Grant applications if funds remain after the September 15, 2023 deadline. Unanimous.

Mr. Kemper provided an update on the Economic Development Grant applications. The deadline for applications is September 15th. To date, 5 applications have been received. Any unused funds in this budget line are transferred to the reserve account. Discussion ensued regarding extending the deadline of the application. Committee decided to have Mr. Kemper report back after September 15th on how many applications have been received, and if funds are remaining open applications back up for another month.

Ms. McCloskey provided an update on the EMT training program, Summer Youth Employment Program. Ms. McCloskey reported on a new 3 year grant that will provide funding to address Childcare in desert locations of the County. The grant will cover the cost of individuals opening home childcare centers in areas where there are no large facilities. Ms. McCloskey reported that Saratoga County has been accepted as one of 8 counties in the Country to NACo’s Counties for Career Success cohort.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Clerk of the Board

