

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 19, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, M. Healy, K. LaForge, T. Hopkins, A. McGraw, P. Curran, and C. Crandall

**Absent:** T. O'Grady

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, T. Miner, M. Alger, J. Foels, B. Riehle, S. Grugel, K. Dirlam, S. Torrey, L. Bliven, J. Scott and R. Zink (STW)

**Guests:** Jim Becker, CEO, and Derek Kaminski, Director of Sales & Marketing for ION (Independent Optical Network)

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Sinclair at 11:06 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Amendments were made, by Chairman Sinclair, to the original December 15, 2010 minutes previously disbursed. With no discussion, Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to approve the amended minutes as offered. A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried 7-0 w/1 absent.

**OLD BUSINESS - CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from Congressman Tom Reed** – Congressman Reed wrote a letter to Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator to the US Environmental Protection Agency, regarding the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load requirements. Chairman Sinclair noted Congressman Reed is knowledgeable of the issue and is taking action.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Planning Board Appointments** – The Chairman of the Board of Legislators plans to reappoint the following individuals for three-year terms on the Allegany County Planning Board commencing January 1, 2011, and expiring December 31, 2013, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators:

District I: Valerie Perkins, Caneadea  
District IV: Aaron Dale Foster, Andover  
District V: Charles Jessup, Alfred Station

Ex-officio Members: ***(Annual Appointment)***

David Roeske, Superintendent of Public Works, Wellsville

Terri L. Ross, County Treasurer, Angelica

Theodore L. Hopkins, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee

**Planning Board Appointments, cont.** – Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to request the appointments and refer to the County Attorney to prepare a resolution. A motion was made by P. Curran, seconded by A. McGraw, and carried 7-0 w/1 absent.  
**REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

**Sherry Grugel – GACCC / County Tourism** – Ms. Grugel distributed the Tourism Deliverables for 2011 with an explanation that these deliverables are part of her contractual agreement with Allegany County. She highlighted the following:

- During 2010 Michael Burke was hired in partnership with the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce to help with the implementation of the Tourism Program.
- The Calendar of Events, previously shown in the old Travel & Outdoor Guide, was restructured and software was purchased with a utility program that now sends weekly Email updates to over 700 individuals and businesses that categorizes all events in the county. In 2009, there were over 1300 separate events to be listed.
- Most of 2010 was spent building the program and efforts will be concentrated in 2011 to more widely advertise the Calendar of Events.
- The Matching Funds Regional and Outdoor Shows, in past years, have shown more emphasis on Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties as they have much more material to display. Ms. Grugel encourages our local businesses and restaurants to provide flyers or brochures for these shows. Businesses have a tendency to rely mostly on the Internet website and it is important to also provide print media.
- New York State did not award Matching Funds in 2010, and Ms. Grugel thanked Allegany County for still providing their match for the program to remain active. Due to the lack of funds, we will not be able to participate in the Travel Shows in 2011, as they required booking in the Fall of 2010.
- During 2010, the Tourism Office did follow the NYS guidelines even though no Matching Funds were available.
- Ms. Grugel will concentrate on working with the New York State Travel & Vacation Association (NYSTVA) this year and expand flyers and brochures to Canada and Philadelphia and, also hit different markets this year.
- 20% of the Matching Funds budget has always gone to the Region in past years. This percentage is still not getting enough advertising for Allegany County so it will be reduced this year to 5%; which will still cover expenses for future Travel Shows, NYS Fair, Erie Fair, Tourism 800# and Tourism website. It is a better use to spend the remaining 15% within our county, than giving it to the Region.
- Through the Allegany County Greater Chamber, Pembroke Pines Radio matches \$10,000 with free advertising radio spots.
- Will be working on developing a Festival of Events Guide to be widely distributed.
- Outdoor banners were provided for the Nitros games and Wellsville Balloon Rally.
- Five Travel Writers visited Allegany County during 2010 with positive results and Allegany County being mentioned in several articles.

In the interest of time, Chairman Sinclair suggested the Committee review the remaining deliverables for discussion at the time of Ms. Grugel's Annual Report review.

**Independent Optical Network (ION)** – Chairman Sinclair introduced Jim Becke, CEO, and Derek Kaminsky, Director of Sales & Marketing. D. Kaminsky gave a presentation on their company and grant project highlighting the following:

- Headquartered in Albany, NY; Founded by 13 RLEC's (rural Telco's) in 2004 and became operational in 2006
- 2,200+ mile fiber network throughout upstate NY (rural & metro areas)
- Increased bandwidth and connectivity at lower costs
- Customer & Technology diagnostic; *they can provide service to anyone*
- 60+ connection points (and growing) for easy customer ingress/egress
- Serving carriers, service providers, wireless & large enterprise (Frontier, T-Mobile, Sprint Wireless, Level3, Paetec, etc.)
- With combined RLEC Affiliated Investors, the companies represent over 1,300 years of telecommunications experience and serve 110,000+ voice lines, 20,000+ broadband customers and 12,000+ cable TV customers
- \$49.6M fiber backbone (middle mile) project - \$39.7M in grant money...\$9.9M 20% match from ION
- ION award was part of the first grants awarded and highlighted by the President
- 1,308 miles of new fiber routes (aerial and buried)
- 10 total projects, core network plus lateral builds to 125+ anchor institutions and businesses, impacting 70+ new communities
- Large impact on short term and long term job creation and retention
- Large economic impact on unserved and underserved rural areas
- ION was recently recognized as a "Top 100 Project Changing America" by President Obama (only 1 of 2 broadband projects recognized)
- Over 100 direct connections with anchor institutions and businesses
  - 15+ Colleges/Universities, including rural SUNY locations
  - 25+ Hospitals and Regional Healthcare locations
  - 12 NYS Department of Mental Health locations
  - 30+ Maximum Security and Department of Corrections facilities
  - 15+ Libraries and educational locations
  - Targeting Business/Enterprise and Research Centers, such as Corning R&D and Griffiss Tech Park
  - NYSErNet (educational & research network) is a close and trusted partner
  - Alfred-Almond is their first project in Allegany County and Alfred University is playing an important role as the First Anchor Institution with hopes to use this as the "model" going forward.
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The floor was opened for discussion and questions as follows:

- Chairman Sinclair questioned map presented and asked how it would be entering Allegany County...by Route 19? *J. Becke responded the map is strictly for marketing and not geographically complete, but that the path would be Route 19 to Route 244 (Almond) and Route 19 towards Route 417 (Wellsville), and would come in NE splits.*

- Legislative Chairman Crandall asked if the map provided was firm and *J. Becke said yes, however, the route can be moved. Some, but not all of it, is set in stone.*
- Will there be a local committee for input? *J. Becke responded, "Yes."*
- Chairman Sinclair discussed Vandermark Road (County Rte. 10), and the fact existing phone lines are not being maintained. *J. Becke responded the goal is for access to rural areas at a cheap, affordable price. They can't build out the local loop, it is a "middle mile," not a last mile. ION is working on having locals take on the challenge of acquiring the poles, then they will build off their lines with splice points. When the towns and villages can access off these lines, then the locals can access at splice points.*
- A ballpark figure on the cost of the "last mile." *J. Becke stated costs range between \$10,000-\$14,000 per mile and if lines are buried, it's an additional \$10,000 per mile.*
- Can the lines cover 911 and Emergency Services? *D. Kaminsky responded the fiber network can open to any pass across and is very reliable for 911. Use of fiber by Emergency Services is no issue.*
- Will ION do their own repairs? *"Yes, and will also partner with local owners to do repairs as well."*
- Alfred currently has high speed access now – will this be faster and less expensive? *J. Becke confirmed that it is cost effective bringing fiber to their door. Any carrier can provide access, and bringing in competition will drive down costs. Alfred is currently serviced at, maybe, 100mg – this process will update and provide 40x that to start. Houghton College may also be another anchor and they will be visiting with them later today.*
- A question was raised regarding the Allegany County Jail benefiting from the fiber going by and being eligible. *J. Becke said the facility needs to be a Federal Maximum Security to qualify so, therefore, it does not make the list, nor do K-12 educational facilities. However, they will leave splice points at these areas so access can be gained later.*
- Are there splice limits within the geographic mile, and if so, should they be planned now? *J. Becke responded, "No, it is not imperative that it be planned; ION has a good idea where the schools are located, as well as the County Courthouse and Office buildings. As long as the location is within the path, they won't need to go back." ION will set up near the central offices of the telephone companies servicing the area.*
- Will ION do services for areas with no current TV or cell phone service? *D. Kaminsky said they can service carriers, who can in turn service their customers with possibly adding more towers. There appears to be spurts of economic growth within areas that are serviced.*

Chairman Sinclair invited the ION representatives to lunch at the Belmont Café to further discuss options. Both ION representatives thanked the Committee for the invitation and welcome any feedback.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Scott Torrey – Soil & Water Conservation District** – S. Torrey requested a resolution to set a Public Hearing date for Agriculture District #3. Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to refer the request to the County Attorney to set a date. A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried 7-0 w/1 absent. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO SET DATE AND PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

**Adjournment**

Legislator Healy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.; seconded by Legislator Curran and carried 7-0 w/1 absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Recording Secretary

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JANUARY 24, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, P. Curran, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, T. O'Grady

**Others Present:** K. Graves, J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Miner

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

On motion of K. LaForge, seconded by P. Curran and carried, the committee entered executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

On motion of P. Curran, seconded by T. O'Grady and carried the committee vacated executive session.

The County Administrator, by consensus of the committee, was directed to meet with B. Thierman, Accountant of the Office of Employment and Training, to negotiate an agreeable compensatory rate due to the fact Mr. Thierman is acting in the capacity of the Director of that Agency due to the recent retirement of Director Garmong and Program Coordinator Cash.

The committee also collectively decided to meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 to discuss further steps toward filling the vacant Employment and Training Director position.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
John E. Margeson  
County Administrator

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, K. Graves, D. Pullen, K. LaForge, T. Hopkins, M. Healy, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** M. Alger

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sinclair at 9:00 a.m.

The schedule of interviews for the position of Employment and Training Director and listing of questions were distributed.

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for Employment and Training Director at 9:10 a.m. A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to go out of executive session at 12:00 p.m.

Three prioritized selections for Employment and Training Director were identified for forwarding to the County Administrator John Margeson.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Crandall and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chairman Fred Sinclair

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Crandall and K. LaForge (11:24 a.m.)

**Absent:** K. Graves, A. McGraw and P. Curran

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, T. Miner, M. Alger, J. Foels, B. Rigby-Riehle, K. Dirlam, L. Bliven, C. Braack, R. Taylor, M. Johnsen, L. Gridley, L. Watson and J. Hopkins

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Sinclair at 11:05 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to approve the minutes, as offered, for January 19, 2011. A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried 5-0 w/4 absent. Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to approve the special board minutes, as offered, for January 24, 2011. A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried 5-0 w/4 absent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Planning Board Appointments** – The Chairman of the Board of Legislators plans to appoint Bryan Fanton of Wellsville, New York as a member of the Allegany County Planning Board for the remainder of Clifford “Duke” Ackley’s three-year term commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2012, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to approve the appointment and refer to the County Attorney to prepare a resolution. A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried 5-0 w/4 absent. **Refer to County Attorney and Prepare Resolution.**

**Communications Resolution** – There was consensus between the Communications and Technology Ad Hoc Committee, 911 Fire Service, Highway Superintendent Association and Sheriff’s Office to approve the proposal to hire Scott Teller as an independent contractor to perform an independent assessment on the Communications system and infrastructure throughout Allegany County. The contractor will perform the technical aspects of the Report, examining the existing 911 emergency and fire service systems as well as inter county building connections, Town and County highway, private broadband, wireless configurations and fiber capabilities. The proposal was forwarded to by Communications ad hoc to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for approval and to request a resolution and contract be drawn up by the County Attorney. Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to refer the “Report on Communications” proposal to the County Attorney to draw up a contract with Scott Teller and prepare a resolution for full legislative board approval. A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried 5-0 w/4 absent. **Refer to County Attorney and Prepare Resolution.**

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Cooperative Extension** – L. Bliven reported on the Energy & Farm Workshop, which makes farmers aware of the wind and solar programs and makes assessments of their needs. Energy audits are made available to farmers and funded through NYSERDA. There will be an Annual Rural Landowners Workshop on March 5, 2011. This will provide educational training in forest/wildlife management, water quality and woodlot safety. There was discussion regarding future staffing cuts in Cooperative Extension with various counties and potential impact in Allegany County. L. Bliven reported cuts in Cattaraugus County appropriation and possibly additional cut in state funds for both Cattaraugus and Allegany appropriation. However, there has been no decision to cut staff positions at this time.

**Development Office & IDA** – J. Foels reported on three items:

1. The Belvidere Truck Stop will be holding its auction on March 3, 2011 at noon at the Truck Stop. There will be an open house walk-through on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. and again prior to auction. J. Foels remains in contact with Auctioneer Chuck Anderson, of Buffalo, and Cienna Capital. The seller will pay all back taxes and liens at the completion of the auction. Advertisement of the auction is being widely broadcast for interested parties on the East Coast, major oil companies, truck stop owners and investment capital firms. J. Foels thanked the Town of Amity and Sheriff's Office for protecting the property and access to the property will be available closer to the auction date.
2. The Energy Ad Hoc Committee is currently focusing on the Gas Expo to be held in Bradford, PA, March 9-11, 2011. The Development and Planning Office is playing an aggressive role and J. Foels, K. Dirlam and Legislator LaForge will be attending the Expo for its duration. The WNY Railroad and Wellsville Airport has interest in the Gas Expo and the Development Office is partnering with them for representation. Allegany County is the only New York State County attending with very few from Pennsylvania. Our county is strategically positioned to assist with services, goods and resources specific to oil and gas industries. J. Foels will have a report for the next committee meeting.
3. Swain Ski Resort will be hosting the Inter-County meeting in March and this proves to be a great opportunity to showcase our large recreational industry.

Legislator Pullen questioned the status on the Waterways Resort construction. J. Foels reported that two homes have been completed, as model homes, but construction has slowed down mostly in part by the world economy, not the U.S. economy. The European, Canadian and regional markets play heavily into their success as the Waterways Resort is marketed more as vacation homes, secondary homes or time share properties; not local housing. One owner is now a full-time resident here and is actively marketing the model homes.

Legislative Chairman Crandall gave a brief report on the Committee of the Whole Meeting recently held at the Crossroads Center. There was discussion with County Planner Dirlam regarding a timeframe to prepare an "Efficiency in Government" grant application for towns and villages who have sewer and water systems. There will be a

meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Crossroads Center and invitations are being sent to the towns and villages to attend for a study of “efficiencies” within the county for joint water system management.

**Future of History** - County Historian Craig Braack reported on the history of the County Museum and its future space needs. There are currently satellite museums throughout the county’s towns and villages and he explained their function, operation and partnership with the Allegany County Museum. The County Historical Society has recently been revitalized and one of their main goals is to locate a facility to house antiques and artifacts that are currently in storage or located in some of the smaller satellite museums. C. Braack gave an overview of the current state of deterioration of the museum:

- 1975-76 - The new County Office Building was built. At the time of construction, the water table was affected and the museum basement started filling with water. This constant water intake eventually deteriorated the main beams and sills into the early-mid 1990’s.
- Early-mid 1990’s - The museum was altered to become “L” shaped with a portion added and part of the building removed. Efforts were made to correct the basement water intake with drainage and new pipes to the Village water system. However, these efforts failed to correct the situation and water intake levels remained the same.
- Over time the deterioration created rotting of the roof. The roof was never replaced for fear of risk to workers.
- There does not appear to be any relief in the future regarding utilizing space at the existing museum and parking is still a problem at the current site.
- There is currently discussion regarding relocating the county museum to the Support Collection building located in the front parking lot of the Courthouse.
- State representatives have awarded the County DPW grant funds for a building at the landfill; including funding for the new records building. This will remove records from the basement of the Support Collections building allowing space for storage of artifacts and the first floor is adequate space for the County Historian’s needs. The current occupants will be relocating. Asbestos remediation may be involved and remediation is planned in the summer or fall.
- Many museum items on display are not the property of Allegany County. Many artifacts belong to the Town of Friendship and the Friendship Legion. The county has them in possession to house and display, and will return upon request.
- Historian files and genealogy records are available to the public at the Support Collection Building. Chairman Sinclair requested an estimate or inventory of items that needed to be stored and square footage necessary for cold storage. This will then be discussed and submitted to the Space Needs Committee.
- Ron Taylor, County Historical Society, reported their agency is aggressively looking at buildings in Belmont and Angelica, with no progress. They are also researching a temporary location to setup and display artifacts until a

- permanent location can be established. Leonard Watson is Chairman of the Site Committee for the Historical Society.
- There was discussion regarding shared services and outreach between the local historical societies who are working alone, as an attempt to help further their goals.
  - Legislative Chairman Crandall thanked Craig Braack for his explanation on the history of the museum building and inquired about the county artifacts and their space needs. C. Braack reported over the years he has had to turn down 10-15 large items as the county couldn't safely store them (i.e., uniforms, clothing, and a civil war drum that was worth thousands of dollars 20 years ago.) As there is no security for items of that value, they are stored by the smaller museums.
  - Leonard Watson thanked Ron Taylor for all his efforts, as it was not an easy task to establish non-profit status for the Historical Society. Houghton College and Alfred State College also donated time to assist with the website. Mr. Watson remarked the Society's main goal is to acquire a building, not seek financial support from the county.
  - Chairman Sinclair commented there has not been a decision yet on the usage of the Support Collections Building and it will be discussed at the Space Needs Committee.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session at 11:59 a.m. for attorney client privileged discussion. A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried 5-0 w/3 absent.

A motion was made by Legislator Healy to return to Regular Session at 12:16 p.m., seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried 5-0 w/3 absent.

### **Adjournment**

Legislator Pullen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m.; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried 5-0 w/3 absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Recording Secretary

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, P. Curran, K. LaForge, K. Graves, C. Crandall

**Absent:** A. McGraw

**Others Present:** D. Fanton, J. Margeson, M. Alger, B. Rigby Riehle, T. Miner, J. Foels, C. Braack, L. Bliven, K. Dirlam, S. Grugel

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Sinclair at 11:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried to approve the February 16, 2011 minutes.

**HISTORIAN SPACE NEEDS**

Historian Craig Braack disbursed a list of items to be moved to a pending location with an explanation of which items were necessary and which were negotiable. He invited committee members to visit the museum to see his current space situation. The artifacts acquired from the Friendship Legion and Friendship Town Office are not included on the list and will most likely be returned. Legislator Healy inquired if there was an inventory list of collectibles and Historian Braack said he can produce one and noted that collectibles versus valuables are two different things. Chairman Sinclair asked that he note square footage for the museum now versus what he needs in the future. There was discussion regarding the Support Collection Building and which smaller county agencies may relocate there. There has been no decision, to date, and Mitch Alger, Deputy Administrator, is working on this process. Legislator Fanton inquired if the museum is currently set up to view artifacts and Craig Braack responded yes, with approximately 150 visitors annually. He also commented that the museum is frequently used as a meeting facility and maybe a separate meeting room should be factored in at the new location. It was noted that the Probation Department may have to make arrangements to have their Wednesday meetings in a different facility, possibly the jail conference room.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Development Office** - John Foels asked to give his report last as it may require entering into Executive Session.

**Cooperative Extension** – Lynn Bliven reported on an upcoming program to be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> for rural land owner's use. It will educate landowners about the options for leasing land for production agriculture and agri-forestry. There will be an introductory meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Cuba for the vegetable crop team. A Rural Living Expo is

being planned for April 2<sup>nd</sup> which will be geared towards homeowners and individuals interested in home-based businesses and selling at farmer markets. There will also be a landowners meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> regarding Marcellus Shale at 7pm at the Crossroads Center. This will be an informative meeting for landowners regarding questions they should address before signing or extending a lease of their property. Legislative Chairman Crandall commented he met with Richard Zink of Southern Tier West and shared thoughts regarding agriculture business and farmers markets. Lynn Bliven confirmed she has met with STW and they are working together towards an extended production season which could create year-round farmers markets. A building is needed, but nothing currently exists. Chairman Sinclair commented on the launch of a "Buy Local" Campaign and the need for a certified kitchen. Legislator Curran commented this would also benefit local caterers who can no longer work out of their own residential kitchens.

**Tourism Program** - Sherry Grugel reported that New York State has cut \$100,000 from the I Love NY budget but the Governor, Assembly and Senate has *not* cut matching funds for tourism. Information on guide distribution, advertising sales, and distribution locations for this year was also reported. She met with Livingston, Monroe and Wyoming counties who recently formed the Genesee Valley Outdoors, which is a tourism-based corridor that will look for ways to market the outdoors from Rochester to Pennsylvania. The Chamber Tourism Committee members have committed to representing Allegany County at the Erie County Fair for 12 days. Ms Grugel recently attended the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh travel shows. Chairman Sinclair commented that local business people have inquired about how to get into the advertising brochures and the cost involved.

## **REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS REPORT & SAIA STATUS**

The Ways & Means Committee have processed an application for the Communications Report funding with the Southern Tier West Foundation and it has been submitted and processed. The related communications contract between Allegany County and Scott Teller has passed the full legislative board. Chairman Sinclair asked that the committee move forward and not wait another month for the decision on the STW \$5,000. County Administrator John Margeson agreed and stated the value of the study is important. Legislator Pullen also recommended moving forward.

Legislator Healy gave an update on the SAIA status. The Communications Ad-Hoc Committee discussed the Pingrey Hill Tower site in the Town of Andover. With the replacement of the two existing towers, service will still be on-line with the old equipment. SAIA is moving forward and has decided to bid the project. SAIA is doing the specifications to include one acre of land with the county's intent of leasing to buy the tower. The terms are still in negotiation with County Attorney Tom Miner, who stated there are no requirements for competitive bidding to purchase the land when equipment is involved. It becomes an installment sale under General Municipal Law. The County Attorney recommends viewing it under this scope regarding competitive bidding. He is waiting for more information to get specifications together and the SAIA proposal to the County.

Chairman Sinclair will check out the site on Jericho Hill owned by Alfred University, and see if they are open to donating space for a county tower. Legislator Healy commented there is a time constraint to file a request for grants, and there is a December deadline. We will need information from ION, their map and confirmation if fiber is going near Jericho Hill. Legislator Curran commented he remembered ION mentioning it was being run from Rte. 244 to Almond. Chairmen Sinclair asked that Kier Dirlam get the information and enter it into the GIS system.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Planning Department** – County Planner Kier Dirlam presented the HUD review that was requested in September. It has been approved by the County Planning Board and will be posted on the Planning website and the ACCORD website. Kier Dirlam spoke with Larry Kaminski who has agreed to serve on the County Planning Board for District III. This will bring the Planning Board Membership to 10 leaving only one vacancy. The County Planner requested that the Planning & Economic Development Committee create a resolution appointing Larry Kaminski. Legislative Chairman Crandall approved the appointment and Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion recommending Larry Kaminski be appointed as a member of the Allegany County Planning Board. A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried 8-0 w/1 absent. **PREPARE RESOLUTION AND REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

**Leadership Allegany Program** – Legislator Healy reported on attending the Leadership Allegany Graduation ceremony at Moonwinks Restaurant with Legislative Chairman Crandall. He commented on what a valuable program this is and suggested the committee look into establishing a policy to send county employees to participate. Legislative Chairman Crandall reported that a couple employees did apply for the program, but there is a selection process and fee. The county does participate in the sessions but he will look into sponsorships and what the internal process is and whether or not it is an internal selection process. Upon receipt of this information he will forward and Email to committee members and make it available to county department heads.

## **ATTORNEY / CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

Chairman Sinclair entertained a motion to enter into Attorney/Client Privilege Session at 11:45 a.m. A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves to return to Regular Session at 12:14 p.m., seconded by Legislator Healy and carried.

## **Adjournment**

Legislator Graves motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.; seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield

Recording Secretary

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 20, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, P. Curran, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, D. Fanton, B. Rigby Riehle, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, C. Braack, J. Luckey, R. Sobeck-Lynch, L. Bliven, Scott Torrey, G. Hanchett

**Media:** Brian Quinn – Wellsville Daily Reporter

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m.

On motion of Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried, to approve the minutes of March 16, 2011.

**Appointments:**

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to approve the reappointments of Susan F. Myers, and Theodore L. Hopkins to the Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board for a three-year term commencing June 1, 2011, and expiring May 31, 2014. To also approve the reappointment of the current ex-officio members as follows: Public Works Superintendent David Roeske, Chairman of the Board Curtis W. Crandall, Chairman of the Planning Board Charles Jessup. **PREPARE A RESOLUTION**

**Hazard Mitigation:**

Chairman Sinclair gave an update on the Hazard Mitigation meeting and project progress. He discussed the different agency and public representatives that were in attendance and their concerns with erosion affecting infrastructure and preventative measures that need to be implemented. The New York/Pennsylvania Railroad Authority was in attendance and they addressed their concerns with severe erosion affecting the rail lines. Also a representative from Senator Young's office was in attendance as well. Chairman Sinclair stated FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has not reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Plan yet. Chairman Sinclair has been in contact with Congressman Tom Reed and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for their support on this issue. There was discussion on the need to encourage FEMA's approval of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, because of the seriousness of the erosion. Once approval has been received, Legislative Sinclair stated the projects will be addressed in two stages.

1. Removal of obstruction and construction of floodplains to relieve pressure (Town equipment).
2. Installation of permanent structures to protect banks FEMA funding.

Chairman Sinclair stated his appreciation for cooperation and assistance received with the upcoming effort from the Soil and Water District, County Planning and Development offices, and Emergency Management & Fire office.

**Allegany Business Center:**

Gretchen Hanchett Business & Community Development Director distributed an advertisement of the “Buy Local” Initiative. Ms. Hanchett discussed the specialty food boxes that are going to be marketed that contain delectable items that are produced in Allegany County. The boxes will be available for purchase at select area retailers, lodging establishments, festivals and events in the county. The products will be grouped in themed collections. A website will be completed soon so items may be purchased over the internet as well. [www.tasteofalleganycountyny.com](http://www.tasteofalleganycountyny.com) If anyone is interested in having their goods included in the collections, they are encouraged to contact Ms. Hanchett as soon as possible. Samples can be given no later than May 31, 2011 in order to be included in the baskets. The profit from each sale will be used to advertise the “Buy Local” initiative, to promote additional sales of gift boxes and to support operations of the ABC (Allegany Business Center). This is a great initiative to build pride in Allegany County. There was discussion on the packaging and distributing of these boxes. The logo will be “The Bounty from Our County”. For further information to contact Ms. Hanchett, she can be reached at 585-268-7605 Ext. 1701.

Ms. Hanchett stated the revolving loan fund is progressing nicely. They have also given out over 500 DBA’s in the County.

**Department Head Reports:**

John Foels Development/IDA Director request permission to accept grant funds from the Southern Tier West Development Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Allegany County Communications Report to be used for an evaluation of the public and private communications systems within Allegany County to increase the efficiency and reduce costs of communications. These funds are to be appropriated to the Economic Development budget as follows: Comprehensive Planning and Implementation Group – A6431.474 and Revenue Account – A08.2770.6431. A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to support said request. **PREPARE A RESOLUTION**

**Scott Torrey Soil and Water Conservation District:**

Mr. Torrey stated Round 13 of the Ag Non Point funding has two more projects to finish by September 1<sup>st</sup> which will close out year 6 of the Ag Environmental Management Grant. Some of the work done in year 6 saved farmers 50% of the engineering costs to meet Department of Environmental Conservation requirements. The Soil and Water Conservation District has applied for Year 7 of Ag Environmental Management Grant in the amount of \$40,000.

Mr. Torrey stated in approximately one-two weeks the District will be receiving \$45,000 for projects funded by (FOLLOWPA) Finger Lakes Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

**Lynn Bliven Cornell Cooperative Extension:**

Ms. Bliven stated Cornell Cooperative Extension continues to assist other Agencies in the County such as the Allegany Business Center to cut down on possible duplication of services. Everyone has a good working relationship for better advertising of food systems and production businesses in the County.

Ms. Bliven stated there is a Gas Leasing/Land Leasing meeting scheduled at the Amity Rescue Squad on April 27, 2011. It will be an informative meeting on how landowners can protect their resources.

Ms. Bliven discussed the State funding cuts and how this will affect Cornell Cooperative Extension programs.

Chairman Sinclair asked Ms. Bliven to discuss her cattle, poultry and lamb farm. Ms. Bliven stated she has a 52 acre farm and all the live stock is processed, packaged and sold there. It is set up as a 4-H educational tool for processing and canning your own meat. It is also an educational tool for the use of less supermarket bought processed food. It is a way to promote the Farmers Markets and area crafters to sell their items and for people to buy local products.

**Kier Dirlam County Planner:**

Mr. Dirlam gave an update on the "Efficiency in Government" grant application for towns and villages aimed at joint water system management. Approximately two thirds of the surveys that were sent out to the towns/villages have been returned. A draft report will be completed soon.

Mr. Dirlam gave an update on the Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting to redo the County Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Dirlam stated the census has been completed. He presented a map for the committee to review. The map shows the number of people in blocks and square miles.

Mr. Dirlam had another map for review of the oil/gas industry showing the locations of all the known wells. There are over 12,000 wells of which 1,500 are active.

Mr. Dirlam highly recommended committee members to attend a Southern Tier West Government Conference being held at Houghton College at 8:00 p.m. on May 11, 2011. He said local towns and village representatives will be there. There is usually an attendance of 300-400 people from across New York State.

**Good of the Order:**

The committee has received a request from the Allegany Trails Association for the committee to approve turning over the logo rights to the Blue Heron photo that is the River Trail logo. After discussion the committee agreed to have William Dibble, president of the Allegany Trails Association, attend the next scheduled meeting to discuss the issue further and to give the committee more information on the association's mission, by-laws, and membership.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Alice Alsworth  
Confidential Secretary

County Administrator

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MAY 18, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, P. Curran, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Miner, D. Fanton, K. Dirlam, C. Braack, J. Luckey, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey, G. Hanchett, T. Parmenter, B. Dibble

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried, to approve the minutes of April 20, 2011.

**Agricultural District Review**

County Attorney Tom Miner reported that the Public Hearing notice scheduled prior to the Legislative Board meeting on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> failed to note the modifications in the Ag District Review and recommendations of the Board. The report is ready and will be received shortly. T. Miner commented that the Planning and Economic Development Committee has jurisdiction over the Ag District reviews. Public Hearings are set for the public to add concerns, recommendations or changes. T. Miner suggested that the P&ED Committee request a resolution today for the County Attorney's office to establish a second Public Hearing date, in conjunction with the Clerk of the Board, to comply with Public Hearing Law; with approval by the Board of Legislators. The modifications are substantial involving an additional 1000 acres and will be noted in the Ag & Farmland Bureau report. T. Miner acquainted himself with the Ag Law-Section 305 and told committee members they are welcome to review it. Chairman Sinclair suggested committee members read the information provided by the County Attorney as it is important to understand the Ag districts and protection laws, as there are well over 100,000 acres in the county Ag Districts. **A motion was made by Legislator Pullen to authorize the County Attorney and Clerk of the Board to schedule an additional Public Hearing to meet the requirements of Public Hearing Law; seconded by Legislator Curren and carried. REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY - PREPARE A RESOLUTION.**

**Allegany Trails**

Bill Dibble presented a map and brochure showing the trails owned by the county. NYS wouldn't take title to the trail areas due to the surrounding Sinclair Refinery site. B. Dibble updated the committee on the cleaning of the refinery site by BP. Allegany Trails has acquired 501-3c status enabling them to acquire the trails and are now requesting Allegany County assign the use of a graphic photo, previously sold to the county, to Allegany Trails. B. Dibble explained what the trails will provide and connect to. Legislator LaForge asked who was serving as officers. Bill Dibble is President with Tom Windus serving as Vice-President and Attorney Joe Miller as Secretary/Treasurer. There was discussion regarding the Town of Wellsville sections, opening dates and whether mitigation funds can be tapped. B. Dibble asked if the County could sell the photo to Allegany Trails to which T. Miner stated, "there is no real value to the county for the picture and there should be no conflict in transferring to a Not-for-Profit organization.

I don't see any downside except there could be a problem if the county wants use of the photo." **A motion was made by Legislator Graves for the County Attorney to work with Allegany Trails to authorize the transfer of the graphic photo to Allegany Trails; seconded by Legislator Curran and carried. REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

Legislative Chairman Crandall noted that the letter received from Mr. Dibble was accepted by resolution prior, but needed to go through committee. Chairman Crandall also thanked him for the update and offered the support of the County Legislature with his endeavor.

### **Local Development Corporation – Land Lease**

The Local Development Corporation, formed by the Allegany County IDA, was discussed regarding the process of moving forward. T. Miner met with Dan Spitzer, IDA Counsel, who prepared a proposed land lease. Allegany County would enter into a 45 year lease instead of conveying property. The Corporation was setup with the purpose to promote development along the Crossroads region and County Route 20 corridor. The LCD Board members are the current five IDA Board members with the option to expand to nine members, but not less than three. The proposed land for lease is the land acquired by the County in a tax foreclosure proceeding. The LDC will be used for the development of infrastructure connecting County Route 20 to the Friendship water supply. An LDC can sub-lease or mortgage the property, with lease payments crediting the mortgaged property first. The LDC is committed to use revenue funds for development of the corridor region. T. Miner has a rough draft agreement, but nothing has been finalized and a final copy will be presented to the Board. It was asked if the contract is standard to protect the County. T. Miner responded it is a unique situation because the county has never entered into an LDC agreement before, but Hodgson Russ has and it has worked well. There was discussion regarding the long term Board of Directors and T. Miner deferred to the by-laws. He will be meeting with Dan Spitzer to finalize the agreement, hopefully by next month, pending Mr. Spitzer's schedule.

### **2012 Appropriation Proposal**

Chairman Sinclair proposed an unusual request as we approach the 2012 Budget sessions. Typically departments present their budget requests to the board but on behalf of the Planning and Economic Development Committee he would like to present a request for a funding line item for the ACCORD Business Center. Due to the threat of closing the Center in 2010 for lack of grant funding, he explained the necessity of the Center for our small business owners and invited Gretchen Hanchett to present information packets for the Center. With the sun-setting of the Empire Zone Program, Chairman Sinclair proposed that the annual funds of \$40,000 appropriated for that program be transferred to the Business Center for a two year period of 2012-13, which is the end of the current legislative term. He noted the allocation would be contractual support for the operations at the ACCORD Business Center, which is important to Economic Development efforts. Chairman Sinclair opened the floor to discussion for a proposed allocation. Legislator Hopkins commented that every committee has programs they would like to fund that are critical (i.e. OFA, Public Safety, Cooperative Extension) and these committees can request funding, but it will come down to the budget process. He also noted there are many organizations that funding is not allowed

for. Chairman Sinclair reiterated that the Empire Zone Programs were similar to the Business Center programs and every department has the option to request an investment. There is a strong connection to entrepreneurs, enabling people to acquire jobs, which other departments do not offer and there is also the implementation for loan programs. The proposed allocation is similar to funds that were previously appropriated for the Empire Zone and specific deliverables would be requested. Legislator Pullen supports the theory in principal but it would depend on exact circumstances as they develop. He also noted funding is a challenge for the Business Center and the state doesn't make it easy. Legislator's Healy and Graves both support the program but agree it will depend on what the county can afford. Legislator LaForge suggested looking at the success and failure of the entrepreneur program and overall costs of the program. Chairman Sinclair asked committee members to review the packets presented by Ms. Hanchett; he will also meet with the County Administrator, and the proposal will be discussed again at the next meeting.

### **Department Reports**

Soil & Water Conservation – Director Scott Torrey reported on the project to install a storm water filtration system to the building and the receipt of \$2,000 in funding. He requested permission to proceed on county property (Land 48) for the filtration system. The building belongs to the district but the land belongs to the county. **A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins to authorize activity on the county property and refer to Public Works Committee; seconded by Legislator Healy and carried. REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.**

Employment & Training - Director Reita Sobeck Lynch provided a report on department activities and statistics since her appointment three months ago. She has also been attending WIB meetings; there have been 665 customer visits, 877 services provided to DSS recipients; 1 new on-the-job training with 6 currently in the program; 3 transitional jobs provided; 4 new business contacts; 37 TABE (Test of Basic Education) performed; 21 individuals placed into training and 20 DSS recipients found employment in April.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Tom Parmenter reported that he spends much of his time on grazing farms which is well suited to Allegany County and the farming industry. He gave a summary on the local farms and comparisons between dairy and grazing farms, noting the profitability on grazing farms is considerable. The 2010 preliminary figures show all farm income increased with grazing farms having a significant increase. 70 out of the 90-95 farms are using some form of grazing with farmers beginning to realize it is the best use of the land. NYS has reinstated the funding for agriculture this year that was earmarked to be cut.

ACCORD Small Business Center – Director Gretchen Hanchett reported they are moving forward with the Buy Local Program and working with Cornell Cooperative Extension. There has been a huge increase with hits received on their business website. She was recently in Albany and met with Director Brian Ansari who had only good things to say about Allegany County and our ability to work together on goals.

Emergency Services – Director Jeff Luckey gave an update on the recent storms and damage the county has received. He has been in communication with SEMO (State Emergency Management Office) regarding the April storms and reports NYS has suffered \$30 million in damages from April 26-29, 2010; with Allegany County enduring \$1.3 million in damages. There was discussion regarding FEMA regulations and funding received is based on the total amount of damages per storm. Wellsville had \$1.5 million between the town and village; Scio sustained between \$300,000-\$500,000 and no other reports are available at this time. Dresser-Rand is still closed and Wellsville is still under a State of Emergency through the weekend. Some roads remain closed to traffic but no one is without emergency services. Legislator Healy asked that with the land still so saturated from the April storms; wouldn't that factor in to the recent damages for aid. J. Luckey noted that it was possible and the FEMA representatives are advising to document damages and if they can tie the April storms to the storm this past weekend there may be enough monetary damage for aid. Legislator Graves asked if there is a mechanism to get reports sent directly to the Emergency Services office, and there is through email. Chairman Sinclair asked if he can publish how affected landowners can get assistance and/or help from the Red Cross without a declaration in place. J. Luckey reported there is no funding assistance for private owners unless there was 8" of water on the first floor; there is no coverage for basements or heating units. Assistance is only for damage to "living space."

Office of Development, Planning & Tourism - Planner Kier Dirlam reported that John Foels could not attend as he was occupied with a meeting regarding funding for the \$15M Cuba Hospital project. The new facility is hopeful to be in place by 2012 and will offer alternate housing and care for elderly citizens. Genesee River Wilds is actively working on a cooperative land acquisition deal for park lands. The River Float event is set for the last Saturday in May, contact him for details. It will run from the Belvidere Mansion to Belfast. He and J. Foels recently met with the new director of Planning & Development for Seneca Nation regarding the Tracewell facility. There was discussion not to refer to the facility as ACME or Tracewell and possibly come up with a new name such as Oil Springs Facility. The Seneca Nation owns the property and does pay taxes and is looking for a tenant to create jobs, as facility is first class and empty. They also own a number of cottages along the lake which are in decline and abandoned.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 23, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, P. Curran, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, D. Fanton, N. Ungermann, J. Foels, K. Dirlam,

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

**Lease Agreement Rushford Beach Swim Area:**

J. Margeson County Administrator distributed copies of the Rushford Beach Swim Area Lease with the Rushford Lake Recreation District that has expired. He stated the need to reinstate said Lease. He stated this Lease has had the same language since its implementation in the late 1960's. He would recommend a three year Lease. The cost of the Lease is \$1.00 to commence immediately once the Lease has Allegany County Legislative Board approval, and end December 31, 2014. A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to approve a 3 year Lease Agreement, and to make the necessary updates to said Lease. **PREPARE A RESOLUTION**

A motion was made by J. Margeson County Administrator, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried to go into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee at 2:57. A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to go out of executive session at 3:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried for the creation of Assistant Youth Agency Director position. Wage is at the discretion of the Personnel Committee. **REFERRED TO PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Appointments:**

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried to approve the appointment of Joy Woodruff as a member of the Allegany County Planning Board for the remainder of a vacant three-year term commencing immediately and expiring December 31, 2012. **PREPARE A RESOLUTION**

Kier Dirlam stated this will be the first time in years that the Allegany County Planning Board has a full slate of officers.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Alice Alsworth  
Confidential Secretary

County Administrator

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JUNE 15, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, C. Crandall

**Absent:** P. Curran, A. McGraw

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, C. Braack, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey, G. Hanchett, M. Burke, C. Hedstrom, L. Bliven

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 10:59 a.m.

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2011 and May 23, 2011(Special Meeting).

**Agricultural District #3**

Chairman Sinclair reported on the copies received of the report that was submitted. It was well written, concise and noted that the Planning Board did not have to write a section of their own due to NYS changing the law. The SEQR Review has been completed and there is no environmental impact for the district expansion. The floor was opened for questions/comments and Legislator Graves asked what the long term physical, monetary impact would be for the county. Expansion will preserve the open space and the adjacent area has a positive impact. Value is not based on the assessment but more to protect the long-term usage of the property. Legislator LaForge questioned if the law of Eminent Domain changes with agriculture land, in regards to well usage. It was explained that it is more difficult to enforce eminent domain if the property is located in an agricultural district as it needs to be processed through the NYS Agriculture & Markets Agency. If a farmer opposes, they need to file an application with NYS Ag & Markets and prove an alternative will work which begins a different process. Legislator Pullen supports the expansion stating that protecting the property provides an economic and social impact to the county. The question was raised regarding the effect to farmland with the Marcellus Shale oil/gas wells. If wells are going onto farmland, then more due diligence is enforced with restoration of the land after the fact. If the primary function of the referenced land is predominately agricultural, then any residential building, after the fact, becomes secondary when dealing with tax exemptions. Legislator Hopkins noted that tax exemptions for leased agricultural land are based on the work-land only and you can apply for the exemption only if gross sales are \$10,000. Legislator Pullen noted the Ag District expansion is good protection for the farmers and agrees we should protect the land referenced in the report. **A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried, to accept the Agricultural District #3 Report.**

**Historian Space Needs**

Historian Craig Braack presented a floor plan layout of the Support Collection Building noting the floor plan is based on 1 inch equals 8 feet of space. He stated the right hand section of building would meet his space needs and that there would be no museum room. He explained the rooms are well divided and can be well utilized for his needs,

noting where he would place furniture items needed. He met with Sharon Wallace and Chairman Sinclair. There is asbestos in the ceiling, but noted there is no knowledge of asbestos in the walls. This will be determined in the summer or fall after Support employees move out, which is when they will proceed with the asbestos abatement. He proposed renaming the building the "Allegany County Services Annex Building" and suggested the addition of two or three other smaller agencies joining him in the building as there are smaller offices in the back which would accommodate this plan. Chairman Sinclair asked which agencies this would include. Mr. Braack noted that the Cooperative Extension building has three offices that do not have handicap access, which include Weights & Measures, Stop DWI, and Workers Compensation totaling four employees for the three agencies. He also noted there are critical adoption records in the Support Collections Building that need to be kept on file forever and are currently housed in the boiler room. These files would need to be a priority records problem to solve and move to a new records building. Mr. Braack noted the current museum condition is poor, with many water leaks, thus creating a necessity for relocation. **A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried, to refer the County Historian's recommendations to the Court Facilities and County Space Needs Committee.** Legislator Pullen, Chairman of that committee asked that Mr. Braack write a letter with his recommendations presented and send it to the Committee as well. **REFER TO COURT FACILITIES & COUNTY SPACE NEEDS COMMITTEE.**

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Chairman Sinclair gave an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan noting comments have been received from FEMA and work on completing the plan has started. Heather Garrish, who helped write and submit the plan is on board to help with revisions. A report with comments and recommendations is ready to distribute to the Hazard Mitigation Group members to assist with formulation of a response. A conference call will be held June 24<sup>th</sup> with hopes to file by month end. Thomas Aggati, who originally helped with our plan five year ago, is in charge of the program, which is good news. Additional good news is that the Towns of Friendship, Hume and Granger, who feared their application was in danger of cancellation, are still active, if revisions can be provided quickly. It was asked if final approval is needed by the Planning & Economic Development Committee. Chairman Sinclair noted it will come back for county approval only, which would be done through a Legislative Board Meeting. There was discussion regarding expediting the process with the current summer board schedule, whether to pre-file or present off the floor. There is no approval needed prior to returning the changes to FEMA.

### **ACCORD Business Center**

Chairman Sinclair revisited the proposal to appropriate funds for the ACCORD Business Center. Copies of the business programs were disbursed at the May Planning & Economic Development meeting with the request for review. Chairman Sinclair has asked County Administrator John Margeson, and the requirement is for Planning & Economic Development to request the appropriation be placed into budget deliberation, subject to review by the Budget Officer and Budget Committee. The consideration is for \$40,000 to be appropriated for contractual work in support of the following three programs: Entrepreneurial Assistance Program/Loans (EAP), Wheels to Work and the

Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Legislator Hopkins asked for a breakdown on how the funds would be disbursed for the three programs. Director Gretchen Hanchett explained that each program has a different budget and the \$40,000 doesn't begin to cover expenses for all three, however, is essential to help keep the programs running. She expressed her appreciation to the Committee for their consideration and support of the Business Center. She reported some statistics of the programs\*:

- EAP Budget = \$73,500
- Wheels to Work Budget = \$191,500 (Extensively cut in the NYS Budget – now receiving \$14,000)
- CDFI Funding = \$75,000 (includes lending and some Administrative)
- NYS cut \$34,000 in funding for 2011
- There are currently loan funds available for small business financing
- Office has worked with 1,191 clients since 1987
- Over \$1 Million disbursed for vehicle loans
- 167 businesses started
- Increased sales from new businesses = \$912,608.00 since 2005
- Financing secured = \$7,183,96.00
- 100 business people have been through EAP over the last four years
- **\*All documented data collected is required for reporting to NYS**
- Due to budget cuts, staff reduced from 7 to 3, while still providing same services as required by program funding
- With economic decline, small business continues to be a strong and necessary workforce for the county

Legislator Healy noted he wants to be sure there will be a positive return to the county if funds are allowed. Legislator Hopkins (Chair of Budget Committee) noted that with the 2% cap on the budget it is a hard decision, however, he will vote to move the request ahead but will not commit to a positive vote during the budget process. Legislator Healy concurred. Chairman Sinclair reiterated it is an investment in developing local small businesses. Legislative Chairman Crandall spoke that, not specific to this project, he strongly supports the ACCORD Business Center programs, but with regards to the budget process every department has a “must-have” non-mandated request and they also give compelling stories for their budgetary needs. Before the Budget Committee was created, these types of requests moved through committees on a regular basis. Legislators have to consider all departments and programs that receive cuts and he doesn't want to put the Budget Officer in a position to have it in place and then have to choose on item cuts. He receives letters on a regular basis where NYS has cut funding and departments are suffering and have a wish list for the Budget Committee. Legislator Hopkins stated the request should not be put on a County Department Head, rather a non-county department should present on the table. Legislator Healy asked for a success history on how many graduates of the program have business plans and are ready to move forward. **A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to refer the \$40,000 appropriation request to the Budget Committee to be considered during budget deliberations.**

## Department Reports

Tourism - Chairman Sinclair welcomed Christina Hedstrom as the new Director for the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hedstrom thanked the committee, noting at day 8, her goal is to continue learning the program. Michael Burke presented the current brochures available noting they have gone from one 8x11 Travel Guide to 6-7 brochures with rack cards. The Hunting Guide will be released the first part of August as they are still working on revisions. Not all brochures need updating; the Festival of Events and Hunting & Fishing Guides are updated more frequently as yearly information changes. All brochures will be released by the end of May. The Tourism Kiosks have been partially completed and the map is still being revised. Most of the information on the kiosks will be from the brochures and they are using the brochure map instead of county map. He is looking at the kiosks this afternoon and they need to grade and gravel three locations and will use encumbered funds for that. He thanked the Comprehensive Planning & Implementation Group (CPIG) for their generous grant of \$8,000 to start the Kiosk budget, of which \$3,000 has been spent. The Alfred State College students (Wellsville Campus) are building the kiosks so there is no labor cost. John Foels and Michael visited Alfred State regarding placing an 8x5 banner on their new athletic field. Currently 12-15 local businesses display banners on the field and NYS Matching Funds will allow for this cost because "out of county" visitors attend these athletic events.

Employment & Training - Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch reported on her monthly programs noting over 700 customer visits with 42 finding full-time employment and 36 finding part-time employment. There are currently 42 youth in employment over the summer months.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Lynn Bliven reported agricultural farming and literacy. Over the next week, third graders from local schools (9 of 12) are participating in the food plates program which promotes good food and where it comes from, i.e. the farms and not stores. They are promoting "Buy Local and Grow Local" and feel it is necessary to educate the children and promote rural agriculture. The 4-H Program is partnering with the Youth Bureau promoting bicycle safety. Chairman Sinclair asked that Ms. Bliven come to the July meeting to elaborate on working with the youth and promoting small business.

Soil & Water Conservation – Director Scott Torrey reported on the status of Agriculture District #3 and activities permitting for private stream issues associated with recent flooding.

Development & Planning – Director John Foels reported on the Cuba Hospital project noting there should be answers on a closing within the next 30 days; hopeful to break ground this summer. The current owners leasing Swain Ski Resort are in the process of purchasing the facility with a closing date in August. They will be developing 23 lots that will be sub-divided and provide an impact to the tax base. The IDA will assist on this project that will generate sales tax. Attendance continues to increase. Due to time constraints he will give more detail on the Crossroads/Belvidere project next month, noting Robert Iszard is on board as a consultant to the IDA for the LDC project. He was a senior person with Empire State Development representing the Southern Tier, but he will only be consulting with Allegany County. He will be an asset to the project with his

contacts and experience and will only be working part-time, as needed. O'Connell Associates has been actively engaged in the following projects for grants:

- 1) ARC - \$150,000; pre-application process has been completed and is now in the hands of Southern Tier West
- 2) Parks Grant – County Planner Kier Dirlam is in Allegany State Park this afternoon for an opportunity to get funding for proposed park adjacent to development at Belvidere.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**JULY 20, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, P. Curran

**Absent:** C. Crandall, A. McGraw

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Miner, B. Rigby Riehle, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, R. Sobeck-Lynch, L. Bliven, R. Swarthout

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried, to approve the minutes of June 15, 2011.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Chairman Sinclair reported the county has received comments from FEMA regarding the submission of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The HMP Committee resubmitted answers, which have been reviewed by FEMA, and the plan has been approved. FEMA needs ratification from the county level and a Public Hearing date needs to be established. Tom Miner referred to the full board to have the P&ED Committee approve the 5-year plan before setting the Public Hearing date. **A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Curren and carried, to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Legislator Pullen noted there also needs to be approval by the towns, villages and railroad. Chairman Sinclair thanked the Hazard Mitigation group for their review of the comments from FEMA and preparing the document for resubmission.

County Attorney Miner presented a resolution to set a public hearing date for August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, with the Clerk of the Board to process. The notice should also include the location of where the plan will be housed for review ([www.alleganyplanning.com](http://www.alleganyplanning.com)), with copies also available at the Legislative Office. The full legislative board will vote on the public hearing date at tomorrow's board meeting, needing two-thirds vote off the floor. **A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Curren and carried, to set the public hearing date as presented.**

**Southern Tier West CEDS**

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, created annually by STW, is submitted to the federal government for access to Economic Development Administration funds available through the U.S. Department of Commerce. There were no funds available during the last round, and if new funding is approved, we want to take full advantage as funding can be up to half of the project costs. The P&ED Committee needs to establish which two proposed projects are considered top priority. Last year we listed the following:

- #1 – Crossroads Development
- #2 – Wellsville Route 417 Water Line Extension

Applications can be submitted quarterly and competition is nation-wide for funding, so it is critical to set our priorities for submission. STW will need an answer within the next week. Chairman Sinclair suggested keeping the current top two projects as is, while Legislator Hopkins suggesting reversing them, with thoughts that the Wellsville project might be a better case for funding than Crossroads. Chairman Sinclair said he has spoken with Tom Barnes of STW who stated if the application is written properly, the Crossroads project can be competitive, and then apply during the next quarter for the Wellsville project and the projects won't be competing with each other. O'Connell Associates will write the grant for the Crossroads project. Legislator Healy agreed the Crossroads project should be the #1 priority, noting he is not against development in other areas, but stated the following pros:

- Main intersection of the county
- Most logical place for development with flat land exit
- After survey of existing businesses along the expressway, his estimate would be 250 new jobs with hotel, restaurants and re-opening truck stop, creating over \$1 million in sales tax revenue
- Hotel beneficial to parents of our local colleges for alumni and parent weekends, as currently parents have to stay in Olean & Corning
- Most of the revenue will not be from our citizens pockets, but rather 85% will be from the motoring public outside the county

Legislator Pullen asked if there were any other projects on the horizon besides the two mentioned. Four other noted projects are the Swain infrastructure and housing development; Cuba Hospital Independent Assisting Living project; increased technology transfer at Sugar Hill in Alfred and Wellsville Airport development. Legislator Graves noted the Crossroads project is very important and supports that as the #1 project as long as Wellsville is not forgotten. Legislator LaForge asked for clarification that if the first priority project is not accepted that they will proceed with the second priority project. Chairman Sinclair confirmed that one does not preclude the other. County Planner Kier Dirlam reported that we can apply for Wellsville first, even though it is listed second on the priorities. Legislator LaForge noted at the advice of counsel, he will have to abstain from the vote. **A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried to approve Legislator LaForge's abstention.**

**A motion was made by Legislator Graves and seconded by Legislator Healy to set the STW CEDS priority list as first for Crossroads Development and second for Wellsville Route 417 Water Line Extension. Motion passed 6-0; w/1 abstain (K. LaForge).**

### **Pictometry**

Chairman Sinclair reported that 2005 was the last addition of flight and updating the system could cost approximately \$178,000. The following agencies currently use the system: Real Property Tax office, law enforcement, 911, District Attorney, County Planner, Development & IDA, Soil & Water Conservation, Villages and Townships. Chairman Sinclair proposed asking associated committees and agencies for their usage levels and support if appropriate and that they seek out any and all means for state reimbursement and/or grants to offset the cost. Legislator Curren questioned the use of

pictometry when “Google Earth” is available at no cost. Planner Dirlam suggested Legislator Curran come to his office so he can see all that pictometry has to offer. Randy Swarthout noted that although Google Earth provides information, there is a loss of clarity in pictures and flyovers give a better resolution for rural areas. There is no comparison between the clarity of the two programs and he uses pictometry over Google Earth every time. Legislator Graves noted that law enforcement needs “real time” photography and if they need to access someone else’s satellite, there could be authorization issues. Chairman Sinclair suggested querying users and can they contribute through their programs for funding. There was P&ED Committee consensus to query the other committees with a memo requesting how the agencies use the program with any source of funding to be identified.

### **Department Reports**

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Lynn Bliven reported on the dairy and agriculture statistics for Allegany County. With current challenges, dairy is the largest and Allegany County ranks second in the state for beef. With weather challenges it has been difficult to market for risk management with farms today. Prices affect the larger scale farms and there has been some growth in the smaller farms. She reported on the potential to increase our beef industry as our county has extensive land for grasslands and discussed profit margins. Ms. Bliven noted a growth in small livestock, which is in part due to a lower capital investment to raise small livestock. Discussed challenges with store prices and educating producers regarding small livestock. Chairman Sinclair asked on the progress of the Farmland Protection Plan. Ms. Bliven reported they are working on the education pieces and there is the challenge of funding for larger initiatives and NYS has no funds to implement the plans. Soil & Water Conservation has worked on some initiatives and will be looking at forestry again. Chairman Sinclair stated he wants to continue discussion regarding the Farmland Protection Plan in the Comprehensive Plan. There will be another “Landowner Mineral Rights Leasing Workshop” on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Amity Rescue Squad Building.

Employment & Training - Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch reported on her monthly programs noting 754 customer visits with 21 finding full-time employment, 17 finding part-time employment and 84% of individuals trained have become employed. There are currently 40 youth in employment over the summer months and all the school districts have student participation except Alfred-Almond and Andover.

Development & Planning – There was no time remaining for reports.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathleen Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 17, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, C. Crandall

**Absent:** P. Curran, A. McGraw

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Miner, D. Fanton, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, R. Sobeck-Lynch, L. Bliven, S. Torrey,

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried, to approve the minutes of July 20, 2011.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Chairman Sinclair reported the county has ratified and approved the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan has been adopted by four townships with the initial town adoption being August 8, 2011, which is now the date established for the five-year mitigation plan.

During the past four months the HMP group has been looking for the appropriate agency to house the effort which involves routine meetings, answering questions, assisting with applications, etc. The Soil & Water Conservation District has been approached as they have a charter and the structure to naturally facilitate hazard mitigation. Chairman Sinclair has talked with Scott Torrey, Executive Director of Soil & Water with a request that their agency take on the responsibility of administering Hazard Mitigation.

Chairman Sinclair distributed questions and answers from the Soil & Water Conservation Board that he has answered. Concerns will be addressed through the Planning & Economic Development Committee with the decision on whether Soil & Water should play the role. Legislator Hopkins reported on his meeting with the Soil & Water Conservation Board and their concerns over financing the plan when it needs to be re-done in five years and how much time will be involved for S. Torrey in administering the plan. The Soil & Water Board thought the hazard mitigation duties should go to Jeff Luckey, Director of Emergency Services, as he deals with FEMA.

Chairman Sinclair stated there are planning funds available through FEMA to update the plan in five years and the agency managing the plan would be responsible to apply. The County originally received \$24,000 from Homeland Security to initiate the Plan and \$17,000 toward this update.

It was addressed that Emergency Services is not currently set up to take on this project. Chairman Sinclair noted the District would be engaged in the creative process to implement the Plan. It can be limited at first then grow over time. The District would need to accept the challenge and put into it what resources they can.

Legislator Hopkins noted the original District contract showed the amount of funding brought into the County from the District. Chairman Sinclair has asked a few towns to contribute funds and they agreed.

S. Torrey said it would be nice if someone could lay out the duties involved for Soil & Water, as his Board wants to know the layout of expectations before accepting the responsibility. Legislator Hopkins explained the expectation is to administer the plan. Soil & Water needs to determine how much they want to take on, accumulate some resources and know that they are being given total freedom to implement the Plan. S. Torrey said he will take the suggestions back to his Board.

Chairman Sinclair queried committee members as to who is in favor of Soil & Water administering the program. Legislators Hopkins, Healy, Pullen and LaForge agreed to Soil & Water. C. Crandall, Chairman of the Board, agreed as well with clarifications of Soil & Water's duties. Legislator Graves agreed noting the issues that need to be determined should deal with basically implementing the Plan. He noted that Emergency Services is usually the first responder in a situation and works together with the towns and villages. With Soil & Water being a municipality they can sponsor accessing private land.

Legislator Hopkins stated there appears to be confusion with who is actually responsible to respond to a potential situation. He reiterated that Soil & Water will only be responsible to implement the Plan; they will not be in charge of a hazardous situation or assume the duties of Emergency Services or FEMA. There are several action items in the Plan for the towns to prioritize practices. Soil & Water will be working with Emergency Services and FEMA as a contract service.

Legislator Fanton noted the last three mitigation situations were funded by the county prior to reimbursement. His concern was what will the County's role be and/or will the District put the upfront money into projects. It was discussed that if the County can help subsidize a town or village, they will address that situation; or if the County chooses to loan money, that will also be addressed, but it is not an obligation. The County is willing to work with the Soil & Water District as needed.

## **Pictometry**

Chairman Sinclair thanked the County Administrator's office for querying the agencies on how they use pictometry. It is approximately \$178,000 to have a new flight done with a life-span of 5-7 years. A chart was distributed showing agency usage.

A suggestion was made to look at Homeland Security as a possible funding source. This is a large ticket item and the Budget Committee is currently in negotiations cutting expense. Legislator Graves said he could not support an expense of \$178,000 without further discussion.

Board Chairman Crandall stated he was first introduced to Pictometry as a Legislator under prior Legislative Chairman, Ed Sherman, who presented a pictometry program to the County Legislature. Although he supports Pictometry, he agrees the cost is too high.

K. Dirlam added the first flyover was done in 2001 with a second one in 2006. There was discussion again regarding clarity of software, other tracking sources and/or gaining access through the Sheriff's Office. Legislator Graves sees no cost savings to the departments involved and wants to see this before justifying expense.

County Planner Dirlam explained if they want more backup they need to approach the towns and villages for their input as well. If an investment is going to be made then people and agencies need to be educated on how to use it. Chairman Crandall agreed it is very important and useful but definitely under-utilized.

Chairman Crandall asked when the final date for flyover is scheduled. Chairman Sinclair noted there is a flyover being planned for Steuben and Cattaraugus Counties and there is a discount for three flyovers if Allegany County is included. It was agreed to look for a way to subsidize the cost.

### **Economic Development Council**

Legislative Chairman Curt Crandall reported that he and Alfred University President, Charles Edmonson, recently attended the Western New York Regional EDC that the Governor put together. There are ten regions across NYS and he attended the second regional meeting yesterday. The first WNY Regional organizational meeting was a breakout session addressing different areas to be concentrated on. The following items were prioritized as suggested:

- 1) Re-investment in sustainable population and projects
- 2) Tourism
- 3) Workforce Development
- 4) Geography – working on unique areas of WNY
- 5) Entrepreneurship
- 6) Higher Education
- 7) Taxes
- 8) Agriculture and Ag-Business

They discussed what areas needed to be looked at to refine. Chairman Crandall's break-out group addressed #8 and very few attendees knew that Agriculture was the #1 business in New York State. There will be half a dozen meetings between now and December with a \$40 million bonus to the top four regions. He asked committee members to mark their calendars as more information will be coming with public participation meetings across the region. The first meeting will be in Allegany County on September 8<sup>th</sup> at Alfred University from 6-8 pm. Virtually every state department and funding organizations are present at meetings. He reiterated that public participation is very important and the meeting will be professionally facilitated.

### **Department Reports**

Employment & Training - Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch reported that although it was a slow month, there is continued activity, noting

- Customer Visits – 638 (168 for job search)
- DSS Services Provided – 903
- On-the-Job Training - 0
- Full-time employment placement - 9
- Part-time employment placement - 12
- Training Programs - 4 began and 12 ended
- Summer Youth Program – Enough funding to extend the summer youth program an additional two weeks, ending in August.
- Unemployment Insurance claims: 29-July; 54-June; 52-May

The unemployment rate is up for June but this has been the pattern for the past 10 years and it should decrease from August to September. Upcoming events are the Business Breakfast on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wellsville Country Club; a job fair at JCC September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Employment Law Seminar at the Crossroads Center on

October 7<sup>th</sup>. Literacy West received a \$100,000 seed grant which will also match any additional funds gathered for the project. There was also a \$48,900 emergency grant received for storm cleanup in Wellsville, which will include supplies and six workers being hired for three months.

Development & IDA - J. Foels reported diligence on two phases of the water project for the Belvidere exit. As always, the IDA does not make formal announcements regarding proposed projects as this right is always reserved for the client. Swain is due to close on their purchase within the next five weeks. The IDA has completed their input and held the public hearing. Regarding the proposed tax cap, J. Foels contacted Hodgson Russ who will be at the Crossroads on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 a.m. for an open seminar for supervisors, mayors and legislators to discuss options for municipalities. Notifications should be coming from Hodgson Russ directly.

Planning – K. Dirlam reported that beyond assisting J. Foels with his projects, he has been checking up on the ARC Grant, assisting Chairman Sinclair with the completion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and looking at park ideas for the Genesee River Wilds. The original plan was to apply for funding by September 1<sup>st</sup> and he just learned this past Friday that the funds have been converted into the Regional Economic Development Councils funding and the September 1<sup>st</sup> date no longer applies. Funds that were dedicated for Allegany, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties have now been commingled with Erie and Niagara Counties. He also noted the Tourism Department is attending the Erie County Fair this week and their Hunting Brochure was delivered a week ago for distribution.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Lynn Bliven reminded members of the meeting tonight at the Amity Rescue Building regarding leasing mineral rights and the gas industry. There will be a second meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Willing Town Hall. She is working with a group out of Houghton and moving forward with cooperative agriculture marketing efforts. Allegany County has a designated food desert within its boundaries, predominantly in the Birdsall, Granger and Angelica townships, and CCE is looking into entrepreneurship opportunities there. There will also be a workshop on direct marketing in the future. She continues to work on utilizing land resources and producing quality foods.

Soil & Water Conservation - S. Torrey reported he continues to work on stream permitting and programs evaluating farms with environmental issues. They will be looking at the county forest harvest situation as well. There was discussion regarding current timber prices.

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

## Questions concerning District doing Hazard Mitigation

Submitted by the Allegany County Soil and Water Conservation District Executive Director Scott Torrey. Answers (in italic) provided by Frederick Sinclair, Chairman Allegany County Planning and Economic Development Committee.

1. What role will we play?

*The Soil and Water Conservation District (District) would assume the role of sponsor, coordinator and home (housing) of the County Hazard Mitigation effort. This would include working on behalf of the County, all 29 Towns, 10 Villages and associates such as Alfred U, SUNY Alfred, Cuba and Rushford Lake Districts, and STERA, (WNY&P Railroad in implementation of the Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan). Formation of a Local Development Corporation (LDC,) in contractual arrangement with the District, could allow for the full implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, allowing for measures which are not specifically aligned with the District mission. The District will administer the Hazard Mitigation Group and maintain membership on that body*

2. What role will the district have in applying for grants?

*The District would advise and coordinate and when appropriate prepare/administer grants on behalf of cooperating municipalities and groups. Coordination of Engineering, easements and ingress onto private lands, utilizing District authorities, are some examples of typical grant support and involvement.*

3. What role will Jeff Luckey have in the process? What is the dividing line for his responsibilities and our responsibilities?

*Director of Emergency Management and Fire, Jeff Luckey, would function within the structure of the job description for this new position which would be very similar to the relationship with the previous Office of Emergency Services structure. The "dividing line" between responsibilities would be clearly established by the respective Department Heads. Policy decisions would be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee.*

4. Will there be funding to support this effort in the future from the county? Can funding be worked into our next contract? We will most likely have to add at least part time help to take care of the plan.

*Much of the Hazard Mitigation Plan work is within the existing charter, stated purpose and mission of the District, for which funding is currently being provided the District. Contribution from participating Municipalities and groups as well as increased support from the County would have to be proposed and negotiated. Management fees and monetary support from grants and all possible sources will be the challenge of sustaining an active level of Plan implementation.*

5. Will district be responsible for everything associated with any new hire? Or will we be just housing a person and someone else will be in charge of the position?

*The District would supervise any new staff or contractual workers.*

6. Who will bear ultimate responsibility for plan? Who will be in charge?

*The District will assume responsibility for the Plan and be in charge, with advise from the Hazard Mitigation Group. The District would also be responsible for the update of the Plan in 2015, for which there is grant support from FEMA.*

7. Would we assist towns with grant applications?

*Yes. Initially to the extent you can, and expanding as capability and resources permit.*

(Director Torrey)

My thought is the district will be responsible for updating the plan on a yearly basis. This will include updating what has been completed and any new issues that occur. We would also be responsible for submitting the 5 year update. I would like to combine the hazard mitigation planning role with one that will provide technical assistance to the towns. My main concerns are funding the position and question number 2. Any background information and guidance that can be provided would be great.

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, K. Graves, M. Healy, A. McGraw, K. LaForge

**Absent:** T. Hopkins, P. Curran

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, D. Fanton, B. Rigby Rhiele, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, S. Torrey, J. Luckey

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried, to approve the minutes of August 17, 2011.

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Chairman Sinclair reported on the status of local Plan adoption and 20 town and five village resolutions have been approved by FEMA. This is good progress for localities adopting the Plan. It was noted during budget negotiations, the County has cut projects for stabilization of roads which could be potential HMP projects. The site by the landfill will continue to be suggested as a consideration and the county needs to be prepared with a letter of intent. It was suggested a referral be made to the Department of Public Works Committee that the County be ready to file a Letter of Intent to FEMA.

J. Luckey, Director of Emergency Services, explained the difference between funding unrelated to disasters and disaster related. Legislator Graves noted that when the existing 10% HMP funds are tapped into there needs to be an ROI (Return on Investment). Chairman Sinclair responded that applications need to be processed in detail with a Letter of Intent and a benefit/cost ratio needs to be demonstrated. He suggested we get into "pre-disaster hazard mitigation mode" to be better prepared to get funding for these projects. J. Luckey noted that FEMA has denied, based on compiled damage results, any funding for damages from April 25, 2011 through May 8, 2011.

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried, to refer this item to the Public Works Committee for a Letter of Intent to be prepared regarding the road stabilization hazard mitigation projects within the County.  
**REFER TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.**

### **Comprehensive Planning & Implementation Group (CPIG)**

The committee reviewed a proposal from CPIG for small color-coded signs to be placed along county right-of-ways for the "Scenic Drive Trails." A request was made for the Planning & Economic Development Committee to review this matter and if approved, to refer this item to the Public Works Committee. Legislator Fanton questioned how many signs and could they be attached to current signage. Chairman Sinclair noted there are approximately 100 signs, which is open to negotiation, and a map will be provided for locations.

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried, to refer this item to the Public Works Committee for approval. **REFER TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.**

## **Communications Report**

A draft report has been released, with the narrative section only, for review. The final edited version, including conclusions and recommendations, will be available next month for distribution.

## **Department Reports**

Soil & Water Conservation – S. Torrey reported they continue to work on the updating of county forests and what timber can be sold. Numbers are being tallied with possible areas ready to go including oak. There are open field pine plantations that need to be timbered. Maintenance work needs to be completed to access the Weir lot in Angelica and he reported on concerns with that plantation. There was consensus of the P&ED Committee for the Soil & Water Conservation District to continue harvesting and cutting lots for possible sale. There is some ash available which is more valuable than oak. Oak should not be cut unless it is over-matured.

Work also continues on county streams and repairs. Chairman Sinclair suggested permanent bypass be maintained to take pressure off the bank. Legislator Fanton said it is not the county's responsibility and let the Army Corp of Engineers handle it. Chairman Sinclair noted constructed bypasses should be cleared out. He noted the District is responsible to maintain the FEMA funded River Projects in Amity and Belfast, but it's not a county responsibility.

Development & IDA - J. Foels reported on the Western New York Regional EDC that was held at Alfred University. It was the first meeting in Allegany County and approximately 60 people attended, which was a quality turnout. Erie County had the largest attendance with 200. Funding is being made available for projects by the end of October, 2011. The Crossroads Water Project at Belvidere has been listed for funding this year at \$150,000. J. Foels continues negotiations regarding the Belvidere expansion with land acquisition the number one priority and the second being the developer's rights. There is progress as well with partners Hodgson Russ and Labella Engineers.

The Swain Ski Resort sale is expected to close the first week in November to the current individuals leasing the property. They had an exceptional year as a four-season event resort. It is noted to be a Regional Tourism Center for us and most of their attendance is out of county tourists.

Planning – K. Dirlam reported that his efforts have been toward the ARC application requested by Southern Tier West and the Federal Government. He also continues to work on the database for the communication towers. The ARC grant is moving forward and he continues to actively pursue four other grants available.

Swain is moving forward with their building project and has committed to building 10-12 housing units, with the possibility of 23. Homes have to be a minimum square

footage and selling prices will range from \$200,000 – \$225,000. Swain does not have their own public sewer system so the project will tie into the existing system at Swain. They anticipate building half the homes by next year.

With no further business, a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge Graves and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, A. McGraw, K. LaForge, K. Graves, C. Crandall

**Absent:** P. Curran

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Miner, D. Fanton, B. Rigby Rhiele, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, S. Torrey, L. Bliven

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Legislator Graves asked for the September 21, 2011 minutes be amended to reflect removing his last name after Legislator LaForge's name on the last line of Page 3. A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator McGraw and carried, to approve the minutes of September 21, 2011 as amended.

**Tourism I Love NY Resolution**

A resolution was requested authorizing the Planning & Economic Development Committee, of the Allegany County Board of Legislature, to act as the Tourism Promotion Agency and apply for state funds up to \$175,000.00 for tourism promotion purposes. A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to refer the resolution to the Ways & Means Committee. **REFERRED TO WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE -- PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

**STW-NYSERDA Grant for Regional Energy Strategy (Support Request)**

It was requested that a Letter of Support be written on behalf of the Planning & Economic Development Committee to Southern Tier West for the application process in applying for NYSERDA grant funds to prepare a Regional Energy Strategy through the Regional Economic Development Council. Southern Tier West will do the work with the sponsorship of all five counties. County Administrator Margeson noted the P&ED Committee has the authorization to recommend the request and it does not need to be referred to the Ways & Means Committee. Legislator Pullen asked for clarification that it is the committee adopting the request without going to the full legislative board for further action. Administrator Margeson stated that there is no financial commitment to the County; therefore, no approval is needed by the Ways & Means Committee. **A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to write the letter of support.**

Administrator Margeson spoke with Richard Zink, STW, regarding the bi-county effort and NYSERDA requires that one county be the lead agency for the grant application process. Mr. Zink asked that Allegany County consider being the lead agency as the other four counties cannot comply by October 31, 2011. If the Planning & Economic Development Committee agrees, the Committee can approve the resolution and it does not require a referral to the Ways & Means Committee. Chairman

Sinclair stated there would be some limited time involved by the county. Legislative Chairman Crandall asked who would be responsible for the grant writing and Chairman Sinclair responded that Southern Tier West will be responsible for writing the grant and processing. Allegany County would be the lead agency named on the application as a municipal government entity is required as a conduit. Southern Tier West and the County Treasurer's Office will have the most involvement. If a SEQR is required, STW will perform the review. Administrator Margeson noted that time is of the essence and a resolution will be brought off the floor for Monday's board meeting. K. Dirlam and J. Foels to contact Richard Zink to forward the necessary documents. **A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried for Allegany County to be the lead agency for the NYSERDA Application. REFERRED TO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

### **Funding Application to the Regional Economic Development Council**

A request was made for authorization of a consolidated funding application to the Regional Economic Development Council for assistance with the funding of infrastructure development at Crossroads, to include CDBG and other opportunities. The deadline is October 31, 2011 which is not an oversight, just a fast-track application process. Two Public Hearings have been scheduled for Friday October 21, 2011 and Friday, October 28, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Crossroads Center. The Allegany County IDA is the lead agency for the grant application. The grant writer has indicated they *may* need documentation from the County providing a brief explanation if the funding comes to Allegany County. County Planner Dirlam explained the project funding and that there are three separate applications being processed by the grant writing team. A resolution is requested to approve applying for grant funds from the NYS Office of Community Renewal Economic Development Program and/or other NYS offices as designated by the State of New York for the Crossroads Waterline Infrastructure.

**Legislator LaForge asked for permission to abstain from the vote. A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried allowing for Legislator LaForge to abstain. A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried to approve the application process for grant funding.**

### **WNY Regional Economic Development Council**

Legislative Chairman Curt Crandall distributed an invitation for committee members to attend the presentation of the WNY Draft Strategic Plan on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Alfred University Olin Building, Room 302. There will be live webcast from the University of Buffalo with the five counties. Chairman Crandall attended three other county meetings and remarked that Allegany County had the best turnout and comments during their meeting.

### **Department Reports**

Employment & Training - Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch was unable to attend but provided a report and Chairman Sinclair reported they are partnering with the Cattaraugus/Allegany Job Service Employer Committee to host a Health and Safety Seminar on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Crossroads Center from 1:30 – 4:30pm. The E&T report reflected the following:

- Customer Visits – 718
- DSS Services Provided – 947
- On-the-Job Training – 2 at Friendship Dairies
- Transitional Jobs – 4 (ACCORD, Allegany Arc, Wellsville Family Dollar and Woodlawn Cemetery)
- Training – 25 trained and found employment in the following areas: PCA, HHA, CAN, RN, machinist, truck driving, mechanic and electrical technology
- Employment – 20 in the private sector; 1 in part-time
- DSS Customers – 6 found full-time employment and 18 found part-time

E&T continues to work on the Successful Transition and Re-entry (STAR) Program with the Literacy West, Probation, County Jail and AEOC. Their proposal was approved and they continue to work on details. More information will be provided next month. Legislator LaForge asked if the program included Level 3 Offenders as well. Chairman Sinclair reported it does not include sex offenders or the mentally unstable.

A resolution was requested to transfer a sum total of \$50,000 within Employment & Training appropriated accounts. See Attached. **A motion was made by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to approve the transfers as presented.**

Soil & Water Conservation – Director Scott Torrey reported on County wood lot harvesting. He will update further after the completion of cuttings. Legislator LaForge inquired on the assessment of ash available. S. Torrey noted there is ash available on scattered areas and some is not quite ready for cutting. S. Torrey asked for authorization to cut pulp on the Dixon lot. Upon discussion, there was committee consensus to move forward and cut the pulp on the Dixon lot. Chairman Sinclair asked Legislator Fanton if DPW could install gates, and he replied, yes, if funded. There is no signage at this time. Legislator Healy noted that state law mandates no motorized vehicles on private land unless posted as such. He will contact the state forester for clarification. It was recommended that no gates be installed until work is completed. County Attorney Tom Miner noted that he would need to meet with the County DPW before any installation of gates. S. Torrey reported he is still working on 12-13 stream permits and there is a \$10.5 million grant RFP posted for January 9, 2012.

Cooperative Extension - Lynn Bliven reported on crop management and regional training on risk management. Discussed beginning farmer's courses and a new interest of veterans helping with the training. They will be hosting a regional training for forest planning and recessive planning. Also, working with schools to provide local and fresh products as well as training school staff on how to utilize the product. A master Gardner and horticulture program is still in high demand. Chairman Sinclair referred to the application to USDA for a community kitchen locally grown products and asked if it can be repackaged and sent to NYSEDC to process for their grant funding. It is too late to apply for this round of funding.

County Planner - K. Dirlam reported the County Planning Board is offering a free SEQR training session at the Crossroads Center tonight at 7pm. During the last year the NYSDEC changed the forms so it has gone from a 2 page short form to a 6 page short form and 11 page long form to a 33 page long form. An attorney from Hodgson Russ will be conducting the training.

The Wellsville Airport 20-Year Master Plan Draft was provided to the TAC Group and should be finalized by late November, early December. Adelphia is no longer using the airport and unless a new large user comes into play, the long-term scheduled changes will be affected. There has been helicopter usage within the last six months. The runway will need to be extended if larger planes are to be considered.

The Comp Plan Review Committee has met a couple times and a survey has been sent to the towns, villages, 120 agencies and fire departments for input.

K. Dirlam continues work on the grants for the Crossroads waterline. He apologized for the last minute resolution to the Committee but at times, NYS demands are out of his control.

Office of Development & IDA – Director J. Foels reported we will hit the 10/31/11 deadline for the Regional Economic Development grant application and thanked everyone who has been involved in this grant application process. Reported on the ION project and noted it is a very significant benefit for the county at no cost to us.

Met with Friendship Dairies Senior Management, recently hosted a job fair with Employment & Training for second and third shift hiring. Friendship Dairies has never had a third shift and this is significant that they are doing extremely well and noted they are very impressed with the Employment & Training Office and their searching and screening of applicants. They have noted an increase in workforce and change in positions.

Spoke with WIB partners in Cattaraugus County and they will be hosting a meeting of partners to include Development, Employment & Training and IDA's on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Crossroads Center to discuss the gas industry and prepare the workforce to participate. This will include blue collar, white collar, accounting, legal and on-site positions.

The Economic Development Summit will be November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9-4 at the Alfred Lake Lodge. All partners, Alfred State, JCC, and Corning Community will be in attendance. There will be a guest speaker from Virginia and the summit is open to all.

### **Good of the Order**

Chairman Sinclair attended the Genesee River Wilds presentation in Wellsville which was an overview of boot trails, water based trail system and connection to Pennsylvania via the Greenway and River Trail. The northern section (Rochester) and southern section (PA) are very supportive.

With no further business, a motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, K. Graves, C. Crandall

**Absent:** P. Curran, A. McGraw

**Others Present:** J. Margeson, M. Alger, T. Miner, D. Fanton, B. Rigby Rhiele, J. Foels, C. Hedstrom, L. Bliven, T. Hull, J. Hopkins, M. Barney

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried, to approve the minutes of October 19, 2011.

### **Tourism - I Love NY Matching Funds**

Christina Hedstrom, Executive Director of the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, presented the Matching Funds Program and highlighted where the program would focus efforts in 2012. At the time of the application process, it was anticipated the State would provide \$53,800 in Matching Funds. The State has now confirmed the Matching Funds Program amount of \$38,850 for 2012. The 2012 Tourism budget has \$60,000 allocated for Matching Funds and Ms. Hedstrom presented a breakout of expenses with a budget of \$98,850 and \$77,700 if the match is reduced. She asked if Board of Legislators would consider leaving the difference of \$21,500 in the budget for local funds that do not have to meet NYS requirements.

Chairman Sinclair asked County Administrator Margeson if a special resolution is required by the Legislature to use the difference for local funding. J. Margeson stated, "No, that the funds are already budgeted." Legislator Graves questioned what would be done different with the program if the amount was left budgeted. Ms. Hedstrom explained the Matching Funds Program, which only allows for expenses outside the County and the Local Funds Program would allow advertising within the County. The funds would be spent on two additional brochures; an educational brochure encouraging our local colleges and promote summer/weekend arts/crafts and fitness classes with visitors staying on-campus; and the second brochure would promote the Amish/Agri-tourism industry.

A new focus will be advertising in the Wyoming/Livingston Region which is similar to our area in comparison to the Chautauqua-Allegheny Region where we currently spend \$9,000 annually for advertising in the Erie/Niagara regions. Local funds will allow more flexibility to work outside the three county Region. Chairman Sinclair suggested the Committee consider keeping the \$21,500 in the budget for this purpose. Legislative Chairman Curt Crandall stated that as long as the funds are currently budgeted there is no need to reduce it. He further noted that the WNY Economic Development Council Plan focus for the Niagara Region is tourism and we are a long spoke from there. Focusing our efforts with neighboring counties, north and south and

the Genesee River Wilds would be a better focus for us. Legislator Fanton agreed that it is not the right time to cut back in this area and we need to continue marketing ourselves. Legislator Graves inquired as to available statistics for economic impact to the county. Legislative Chairman Crandall stated there is \$55 million in regional funds and asked where Allegany County factors in. J. Foels reported that every year an economic review is done per county which calculates the number of visitors, based on recreational, snowmobilers, and events and calculates a per diem amount on a state average. The return on investment is 100% back into the County and the annual estimate of visitors for Allegany County is 350,000.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried, to keep the Tourism budget at \$60,000 with \$38,500 for Matching Funds and \$21,500 allocated for Local Funding. C. Hedstrom thanked the committee for their continued support.

### **Housing Issues – Planning Kickoff**

Chairman Sinclair reported on a planning effort for low income housing and the opportunity to look at improvements in the future. He referenced Steuben County and their economic outlook with housing costs doubling as a result of rentals to people in the gas industry (Marcellus Shale). Housing has been a large issue in the Pennsylvania area as well with Mansfield students having difficulty finding housing. K. Dirlam is attending a conference at Southern Tier West, but provided figures of 300 houses currently for sale in Allegany County. Chairman Sinclair noted he would like the Committee to start thinking about area housing and be ready for the push when they start drilling in Potter County. He suggested meeting with Vicki Grant (DSS) and Charlie Kalthoff (ACCORD Housing Program) to see how our committee can learn more. Should the County consider tax sale properties for low income housing?

J. Foels commented there is sensitivity to the gas industry and suggested doing a benchmark on housing county-wide. We need to attract people here for manufacturing, education and medical as well. There is a need for housing for these entities as well. Manufacturing recruiters need to have information on housing prices, age, location and availability. The HUD Plan was updated a few years ago and has housing information which can be used to factor in these needs. Legislative Chairman Crandall noted that there also is a shortage of high-end housing available for higher scaled positions coming into the County and costs associated with that would give a broader report on housing. J. Foels also noted there is difficulty recruiting medical students/interns to the area and we are incorporating a parish home to house medical students. Legislator LaForge noted there is a need to get rid of some of the lower-income blight homes. Trailers have increased from 800 to 4800 in Allegany County. Chairman Sinclair asked the Committee to bring ideas back for discussion and he will meet with Vicki Grant and Charlie Kalthoff.

### **Department Reports**

Cooperative Extension - Lynn Bliven reported the new 4-H position has been filled and this position will be working with the youth and farm bureau on expanding education. There will be another gas/lease/landowner meeting next Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m. at the Waterways Golf Course Restaurant. The Cooperative Extension office will

be working with Southern Tier West on local food systems. Next semester Alfred State College will be teaching a class on livestock to promote agriculture. There is an increasing need to make the importance of agriculture be known. Legislator LaForge commented that Ms. Bliven recently did a presentation in the Town of Willing and there was one participant in attendance with a different agenda. Ms. Bliven handled the situation quite well. Legislator Pullen noted the Annual Cooperative Extension meeting will be tomorrow, November 17<sup>th</sup> in Cuba and you need to register to attend. L. Bliven noted there is still space available to attend.

Office of Development, Planning & IDA – Director J. Foels reported that he and K. Dirlam attended a conference at Alfred State College with JCC and local community colleges. All three counties of the Chautauqua/Allegheny Region were invited along with Steuben County. The only county to attend with representation was Allegany County. There was good participation and dialogue and we are taking it seriously.

J. Foels updated on ION and the POP (Point Of Presence) that may be established at the Crossroads Center. He stressed the importance of this for Allegany County as it is a \$6-7 million investment that is not costing the County a cent. This last mile will provide low cost fiber for 911 and companies within the county and is an asset many other areas do not have. J. Foels will meet with Mike Johnsen and Jerry Scott tomorrow to discuss the location and corporate partner.

Legislative Chairman Crandall questioned where the fiber is going to be located. J. Foels reported the plan is from Dunkirk to Steuben County. When Allegany County is plugged in, the loop will be completed and we would become active in February. ION will continue to build out throughout New York State but Allegany County will be ahead of the rest being active in February. Legislator Fanton inquired if the fiber will be going through County Route 248 to Whitesville. J. Foels replied he believed this to be true. The Crossroads Center is strongly being considered as the POP, as the fiber will be going right over top of the building. Legislator Graves asked if changes would be imposed on townships and J. Foels replied the broadband would be similar to that in Swain and the Rushford area with township input.

Employment & Training – Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch was unable to attend and Chairman Sinclair distributed her report to Committee members for review:

Front Door Traffic: 589 In September - 140 for the Friendship Dairies Job Fair

OJT: 2 both at Allegany Arc, one was skills upgrade and the other is new hire as a Medicaid Service Coordinator

Other trainings: 13 (MOA, CNA, CDL-A, Office Skills, Maintenance Mechanic)

New Job Landings: DSS: Part-time: 22	Full-time: 9 wages not known
Non-DSS: Part-time: 4	Full-time: 11 Average wage: \$12.66

EARN: (Employment, Achievement & Responsibility Now) several months ago we discontinued the group sessions and changed to individual appointments and attendance has improved and the Counselor feels we are making better gains. We are collecting data on job placements to measure success.

JRT: (Job Readiness Training) We are looking at other programs to see how we can enhance this and meet customer needs. We made reminder calls to everyone scheduled and this didn't increase attendance but did make the customers more accountable and we received calls to inform us why they couldn't attend. We are working with DSS to ensure the programs we provide meet their activity requirements.

Safety Net: We initiated meetings with DSS to address this population. It is increased by 30% this year and the County contribution is 71% of the total cost. Many of these people are unemployable due to mental health or substance abuse treatment that must be addressed before employment so we are looking at people who are employable and will be re-structuring our programs to address these needs.

DOL: Jack Hoffrnan and John Hurd reviewed ITA files last week for PY09, 10 and 11. Results received yesterday and will be addressed. There were no disallowed costs and several nursing students will be changed to supportive services from ITA's. There were some cases of BOCES training dates with discrepancies. We appreciate their thorough review of our files and staff is to be commended for their efforts.

OSHA Seminar: 16 businesses attended this on 27 October and the participants were very pleased with the information. We will look at the evaluations to see what their interests are in continuing education. This is on the agenda for the Business Services Team meeting.

Points of Entry National Demonstration Project: Successful Transition and Re-entry (STAR) Pathways project. The plan was approved and we are moving forward with implementation plans. We will be presenting this to the Allegany County Board of Legislators on 14 November.

**Good of the Order – Nothing to report.**

With no further business, a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

December 12, 2011

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, P. Curran, K. Graves, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, A. McGraw, C. Crandall

**Others Present:** D. Burdick, J. Margeson, M. Alger, R. Lynch, T. Miner, B. Riehle

Chairman Frederick Sinclair called the meeting to order at approximately 2:40 p.m.

### **Appointments to Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority**

At the Board meeting this afternoon, Chairman Curtis Crandall appointed John E. Foels to the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority for a three-year term commencing immediately and expiring August 27, 2014, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to sponsor a resolution supporting this appointment. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Transfer of Funds within County Historian Accounts**

County Historian Craig Braack forwarded a request to transfer \$324 from A7510.407 (County Historian – Supplies) and \$136 from A7510.484 (County Historian – Museum Stock) to A7510.201 (County Historian – Equipment) to allow for the purchase of a digital slide projector. It was noted that Mr. Braack has been using his own personal projector for the last few years. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Appointments to Soil and Water Conservation District Board**

The Soil and Water Conservation District Board requests that the Board consider reappointing Curtis Rung of Friendship, New York, as the County Grange appointee on the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2012, and expiring December 31, 2014. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

The Soil and Water Conversation District Board also requested the committee to consider reappointing Theodore L. Hopkins of Fillmore and Douglas D. Burdick of Alfred Station as Legislative Members of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2012, and expiring December 31, 2012. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

### **Article X**

Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair distributed information regarding Article X. Legislator Sinclair stated that legislation known as the Power of NY Act was recently enacted by both houses and signed by the Governor. The Act amends Public Service Law by adding a new Article 10 which establishes a NYS Board of Electrical Generation Siting and the Environment and has implications in terms of the implementation and siting of power generating facilities.

Some are concerned about the legislation circumventing local zoning laws, and a Coalition on Article X has been sending counties information and requesting that they consider adopting a resolution amending or repealing this legislation. Legislator Sinclair stated that there are some very good aspects of the legislation, and he does not believe that the ability for individuals to comment has been taken away. Legislator Sinclair indicated that one of the positive provisions allows for individuals to make energy improvements to their homes and pay for them through their utility bill. Legislator Sinclair noted that Senator Young and Assemblyman Giglio voted in support of the legislation and Assemblyman Burling voted against it as he felt the law shouldn't take away local control or override local authority. Legislator Sinclair requested that committee members take the information home and review it for further discussion at a later meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Rigby Riehle, Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 21, 2011**

**\*\* NOT APPROVED \*\***

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**Members Present:** F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, M. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, K. Graves, C. Crandall

**Absent:** P. Curran, A. McGraw

**Others Present:** D. Fanton, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Rigby Rhiele, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, C. Hedstrom, M. Burke, L. Bliven, S. Torrey, R. Lynch, D. Baker

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:005 a.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried, to approve the minutes of November 16, 2011.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried, to approve the Special Meeting minutes of December 22, 2011.

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Diane Baker, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension was welcomed and Chairman Sinclair explained the recent discussions about their funding being cut in Cattaraugus County. Legislator Pullen, Board Member for Cornell Cooperative Extension, reported the initial concern is how it will affect our contractual positions. The Allegany County program is currently stable with no threat to financing or sponsoring at this time. The Cooperative Extension Board consists of legislative representatives from each county and Chairman Sinclair noted the importance of maintaining strong support for the program.

A chart was distributed to members showing the percentage the County pays and the savings received by the County for them as Cornell employees versus County employees. There was a \$204,000 savings per year with fringe benefits and salary. Diane Baker, Cattaraugus County, reported the only change is the Cattaraugus County Agriculture Program has stopped until further funding becomes available. The Allegany Ag person will be available to Allegany County only. Diane Baker has voluntarily agreed to take a reduction in salary. She thanked the committee for their support and kind words. Legislator Hopkins asked if any of the Cornell sponsored positions are mandated to which, J. Margeson, County Administrator, replied that no positions in Allegany County are mandated. Legislator Hopkins expressed concern for something to be done before the 2% cap goes into effect in 2012. The WIC Program, where seven of the Cornell sponsored positions are located, brings in over \$1 million per year.

### **Regional Economic Development Project**

Chairman Sinclair noted projects were approved for Western New York, with several being in Allegany County (i.e., Friendship, Bolivar-Richburg) with much emphasis on

housing. Southern Tier West received a \$998,000 grant to develop regional energy sustainability in the Western Region. Copies of the RFP and STW reports were received and Chairman Sinclair noted the importance of working closely with STW and the consultant to be sure the strategy is the best it can be, noting there is also information on the website. Legislative Chairman Curt Crandall remarked it will be an on-going process as other sources of funding come up and he has been approached by entities that did not apply and noted it is important for us to keep moving forward in Allegany County.

### **Housing Information - DSS**

A report was distributed that was prepared by Vicki Grant, DSS Commissioner, regarding the potential ripple effect on housing and services should hydro-fracking impact our county, from the DSS perspective. Chairman Sinclair asked that committee members review the report, also noting housing issues on a broader sense. There was discussion regarding the options of tax sale homes being purchased and renovated as a low-income housing source or possibly get the private sector involved in the development of new housing which is greatly needed. There was also discussion regarding residential property currently owned by the county being resold and designated as low-income housing. Legislator LaForge noted his 25 years of landlord experience and suggested the option of a land bank concept noting that the County should not be in the landlord business.

### **Article X – Siting of Energy Facilities**

There was discussion regarding Albany returning Home Rule to our NYS municipalities in important zoning and planning decisions regarding the siting of energy facilities. Information was distributed regarding this article. Local townships have commented this act will take away their position to bargain for packages. Legislator Pullen commented, as a legal representative for several villages and towns in Allegany County and neighboring counties he must remain neutral, however, has seen that Article X has allowed local laws the ability to grant licensing for particular development. There was discussion regarding what part the state level plays verses local level.

Chairman Sinclair distributed information on NYSAC's position as they are proposing a Resolution. For this law to be challenged it will involve a community taking NYS to court.

### **Department Reports**

Employment & Training – Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch gave a brief report noting that full statistics will be available in her year-end report. She reported on the new “Gold Card” initiative of the US Department of Labor for Post-9/11 Era Veterans. It is a comprehensive plan to lower veteran's unemployment and ensure that service members leave the military career-ready. It provides unemployed post-9/11 vets with the intensive and follow-up services they need to succeed in today's job market. As of September, over 900,000 veterans were unemployed and the jobless rate for post-9/11 era veterans was 11.5%. Information about this new initiative can be found on the

Department of Labor website, <http://www.dol.gov/vets/goldcard.html> where vets can print a Gold Card and get information on how to access available services.

Soil & Water Conservation District – Scott Torrey reported on the wood lots in the Town of Birdsall and has sent out bids for timbering. He is also wrapping up rounds of grant projects for three different water quality projects.

Tourism – Christina Hedstrom, GACCC Executive Director, presented the 2012 Tourism Contract and Deliverables and requested a resolution for approval. J. Margeson, County Administrator, remarked it does not need Ways & Means Committee approval as the funds are already budgeted for 2012. If the P&ED Committee approves the deliverables it just needs a resolution directing the County Attorney to draw up the contract and deliverables for 2012. The resolution can be entertained at the first board meeting in January, assuming the County Chamber will continue to follow through on deliverables until the resolution is passed. Ms. Hedstrom noted there are no major changes from 2011 except the increase in funding which was previously approved. Michael Burke, Tourism Specialist, reported that the smart phone app providing access to points of interest, driving tours, map overlays, etc., to promote tourism in Allegany County, will be available the first part of January. A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins and carried, to accept the 2012 Tourism Contract and Deliverables as presented. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY AND PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

Cooperative Extension - Lynn Bliven reported on highlights of the housing market noting the importance of educating residents before signing leases of Mineral Rights regarding Marcellus Shale and that a significant number of residents are not educated prior to. Ms. Bliven reported on the latest Marcellus Shale informational meeting and the SGEIS review period has been extended to January.

Office of Development, Planning & IDA – Due to a time shortage, J. Foels, Director of Development and K. Dirlam, County Planner, did not report.

**Good of the Order – Nothing to report.**

With no further business, a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield  
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development