

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: T. Miner, B. Rigby-Rhiele, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, L. Bliven, K. Hummard, S. Torrey, R. Lynch-Sobeck, T. Ross, S. Presutti, J. Luckey, R. Zink (STW), C. Kalthoff (ACCORD)

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried, to approve the minutes of December 21, 2011.

Sale of County Forest Resources, SWCD

The minutes for the Dixon Lot Bid Openings on January 9, 2012 were introduced for approval. Chairman Sinclair reported that bids were presented by R.T. Chamberlain Logging & Trucking and Wagner Timber Corporation for a mixed softwood harvest on the Dixon Lot in the Town of Birdsall. A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried, to accept the Wagner Timber bid in the amount of \$17, 498.

There was discussion regarding the approval process and the Consultants role in the bid process, noting the bids would not be presented to the committee unless they met the Consultant's standards and the bid does include clean-up of the site. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

Appointments to Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

The Chairman of the Legislative Board seeks to appoint the following individuals to the Region 9 Fish and Wildlife Management Board to serve a term of two years, commencing January 1, 2012, and expiring December 31, 2013, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators:

Dwight R. Fanton, Wellsville - Legislative Representative Member
Douglas D. Burdick, Alfred Station - Alternate Legislative Member
Gilbert Childs, Richburg - Sportsmen's Representative Member
John Lewis, Wellsville – Alternate Sportsmen's Representative Member

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Curran and carried to accept the appointments as presented. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

Appointments to Allegany County Planning Board

The Chairman of the Legislative Board seeks to re-appoint the following individuals to the Allegany County Planning Board to serve a term of three years, commencing

January 1, 2012, and expiring December 31, 2014, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators:

District I: Robert Ellis, Belmont
District III: Wendall Brown, Scio
District V: James E. Ninos, Alfred
Ex-Officio: David Roeske, Superintendent of Public Works, Wellsville
Ex-Officio: Terri L. Ross, County Treasurer, Angelica
Ex-Officio: Theodore L. Hopkins, Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee

Legislator Healy noted that Robert Ellis was listed as District I, but should be District II. A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried to accept the appointments as presented with the modification that Robert Ellis is from District II. **REFER TO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE RESOLUTION.**

Department Reports

Employment & Training – R. Sobeck-Lynch, Director, reported that her numbers were down in December but extremely busy in January. They continue work on the Star Pathways Project and have three or four individuals who will go through orientation. KOHL'S Department Store is opening in the Olean Mall in March and offered a job fair this past week and this week with the potential for 30 new jobs, which hopefully can benefit some Allegany County residents. The E&T Office is starting to develop some job clubs targeted for the population of customers who cannot find work. Director Sobeck-Lynch reported the county unemployment rate to be between 7 and 7.9 % and Steuben and Cattaraugus Counties are between 8 and 8.9%, so we are slightly lower than our two neighboring counties.

Cooperative Extension – L. Bliven reported that she is currently working with three new start-up markets and a grant for worker trainees and it has been noted that there is a demand for meat cutters, so they are looking at bringing in some resources for these fields. Ms. Bliven reported on winter programming, which involves maple production and forestry products. They are also looking at more programs for season extension and high-tunnel farming and the understanding of that type of farming enterprise. Also, educating farmers on the importance of food safety.

Ms. Bliven introduced Krista Hummard as the new 4H Youth Development Coordinator.

Ms. Bliven explained the difference between high-tunnel farming and greenhouse production farming and their growing seasons.

There was discussion regarding the reduction in funding for Cattaraugus County and how it will impact Allegany County. The pros and cons of acquiring information from the Internet verses Ms. Bliven's program was discussed, and it was noted that Ms. Bliven is an advocate for her clientele, not just an information service.

Office of Development & IDA – J. Foels, Director, reported on two major items that have occurred since the December meeting.

The Swain Ski Resort sale has closed, which was a work in progress for over two years. J. Foels reported on the new owners and their current success at the Ski Resort. The new electronic kiosk was placed at the Ski Lodge this month and the Tourism

Office and County Chamber continue to work closely with the new Swain owners. Swain Ski Resort remains our largest tourist attraction.

Infrastructure opportunities for the Crossroads Belvidere Project at State Route 19 and County Route 20 will continue to move forward over the next two weeks. J. Foels reported on the fiber and Point of Presence at the Crossroads facility.

County Planner – K. Dirlam reported he has been working with Houghton College on their Athletic Center project and met with them to discuss their needs and K. Dirlam will be assisting their engineers and architects with their data needs for their preliminary work.

K. Dirlam continues to work on wrapping up the tower report maps. He reminded committee member that the Annual Planning Board Dinner is this evening at 6PM at L'Italia Restaurant in Wellsville.

Richard Zink, Southern Tier West, is in attendance and K. Dirlam has had preliminary discussions with him regarding the sustainability project that the five counties in Western New York received the grant for Allegany County.

Housing Issues – ACCORD Corporation and DSS

Charlie Kalthoff, Executive Director of ACCORD Corporation and Vicki Grant, DSS Commissioner presented the “Section II HUD Plan Binder – Community Assessment” noting to refer to the housing section for related information. Chairman Sinclair distributed information regarding the “New York Land Bank Act.” The following link is available on the ACCORD website to view the HUD Plan-Housing Section:

<http://www.accord-corp.org/index.php?Housing%20Assistance%20Programs%20and%20Services>

Vicki Grant reported on the significant presence in our communities regarding low-income housing and the availability of housing for low income and public assistance families.

Charlie Kalthoff reported on the general items, noting that community assessments are done annually regarding daycare and housing. He reported on the history of the program and hazards that come with pre-1960 homes. There was lengthy discussion regarding:

- Current low-income housing available
- Quality of housing
- Tax Dollar cost for
- Rural housing affordability
- Ways to attract first time homebuyers
- Increased rentals and economic upturn due to Marcellus Shale gas drilling
- Model strategies between owner occupied housing, straight rental housing and housing purchases with rehabilitation and management
- No homeless shelters – Use of motels/hotels as emergency shelters
- 12% of housing in Allegany County is mobile homes
- Sustainability

Chairman Sinclair proposed that ACCORD work closely with DSS to look at this issue and do an evaluation based on their present knowledge to prepare for what we can do and where we can go from here. There was discussion regarding county homes

that come up for tax sale and the possibility of rehabilitation and use as rentals. Discussed a current residential property owned by the County and possible use as a rental for three-family or six safety-net individuals. Chairman Sinclair suggested the possibility of removing trailers and replace with side-by-side housing and also look at vacant county land for potential building sites.

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Graves and carried to request that the ACCORD Corporation work together with DSS and develop perspectives to look at options.

Good of the Order – Nothing to report.

With no further business, a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 15, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Absent: A. McGraw

Others Present: D. Burdick, T. Miner, J. Margeson, B. Rhiele, J. Foels, K. Dirlam, L. Bliven, R. Lynch-Sobeck, B. Clark (OTH-Media)

Chairman Sinclair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy and carried, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2012.

Housing Issues Report, ACCORD & DSS

Chairman Sinclair reported on the Housing Issues report previously Emailed to committee members and included in today's packet. Chairman Sinclair met with ACCORD Executive Director Charlie Kalthoff and Lynn Faecke, Director of Housing and DSS Commissioner Vicki Grant; to discuss and develop potential program designs that can address housing conditions; affordability and availability in the County (see Addendums A, B, C, and D, Pgs., 7-20).

Chairman Sinclair summarized their discussion regarding the mid-range housing market as an area that would not be targeted other than assisting restoration, renovation or weatherization programs. While reviewing the Middaugh Real Estate site, it was noted there are multiple homes that are good quality homes, with multiple mid-range housing along with high-end housing available also, which apparently narrows focus to a need for low-income housing and mandated housing issues.

There was discussion regarding housing programs and grants. Information was disbursed for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. See Addendum B. There are mandated housing requirements for difficult to place populations such as incarcerated individuals, parolees and the homeless. Some programs mandate the County is responsible to provide housing. Chairman Sinclair asked Committee members to please review the documents.

Veterans Housing

Director Mike Hennessy was unavailable to attend to report on this issue. Chairman Sinclair reported on this veterans housing initiative starting to help veterans experiencing financial difficulty and/or single vets looking for housing. ACCORD has applied for a \$290,000 grant, which will provide rapid re-housing services including financial assistance, homeless prevention and supportive case management services for low income veterans and their families living in Allegany, Cattaraugus and Wyoming counties. ACCORD will serve approximately 150 vets within these counties to help avoid homeless situations. The program model is two-tiered to adequately address

diversified needs of low-income vets living at or below the median area income. It also provides for rehabilitation to existing homes and there are various levels of assistance available. ACCORD is also currently rehabilitating blocks of housing units in Almond for the veterans.

Department Reports

Employment & Training – R. Sobeck-Lynch, Director, reported that her unemployment rate reported in January was for November and December was at 8.6%. She reported as follows:

Training: No individuals for January

Employment: Jobs found – 27 (13 full-time and 14 part-time). The Agency works with Support Court to assist their customers to find employment.

Unemployment: 7% - November and 8.6% for December for Allegany and Cattaraugus counties. The January rate is not expected until next week. There were 7 new claims for unemployment insurance in January, according to the OSOS software.

The STAR Program (Successful Transition and Re-entry) launched this month with two of the participants with referrals to her office from the Jail or Probation.

E&T is partnering with Alfred State College to utilize their Career-beam software to assist our job seekers. There will be a link on the E&T website to access this.

The Agency has been testing individuals for positions available at Dresser-Rand in Wellsville.

Ms. Sobeck-Lynch noted she met with a company in Cuba looking for four skilled machinists. There is also new activity, especially in training. BOCES has started up and E&T has sponsored about 20 individuals in different programs with one being machinery. Legislator Pullen commented upon browsing the Internet, he noted that corporate managers are noticing there are hundreds, if not thousands of jobs available for skilled individuals, however, they observed that the difficulty in employment is the un-skilled positions that basically move overseas. E&T is working closely with STAMI (Southern Tier Advanced Machinists Initiative) and the schools talking to the middle school students and advising them to concentrate on their math and science. A business in Salamanca was recruiting high school students to train on weekends towards a machinist career because it is so hard to find machinists.

Legislator Pullen referred to a recent NYSAC Conference he attended and an individual from Chautauqua County noted they are hiring in the skilled machinists industry and can't find the workers so it's the old issue of matching the need with the availability.

Legislative Chairman Crandall referred to the NYSDOL report (attached) and asked if the applicants can land in multiple categories, so it is not numbers of individuals, rather multiple.

Legislator LaForge noted he attended the same seminar and addressed the K-12 disconnect and asked if that is a concern in Allegany County. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch has heard nothing to indicate that. There was discussion regarding school testing and can we do more. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch noted that E&T is partnering with Alfred State College to use their Career Beam which is very similar to the career zone and job zone. The college has had great success and the program does personality testing, interests inventory, skills, helps create resumes and has access to jobs. She has spoken with the Guidance Counselor in Wellsville who is interested in implementing it in the Middle School.

Legislator Pullen commented he attended the OFA luncheon last week and there was discussion regarding minimum wage and whether it should be raised. He would like to make a statement he knows is politically incorrect, however, noted he feels strongly about this issue. Assemblyman Dan Burling indicated his opposition to raising minimum wage for a couple of reasons, but Legislator Pullen looks at this and says, "if there are jobs for people with training, I would much prefer to increase the skills so that someone can get a job that's going to pay significantly higher than minimum wage, something where a worker can support themselves. And, at the risk of sounding heartless; the welfare programs, the safety net, was never intended to live off. In my view, it needs to be painful so that people will be motivated. If something feels good, you pursue it, if something hurts, you avoid it. I look at this and say the motivation should be there for people to improve their skills, improve their circumstances. If we invest in poverty, it's not surprising to me that we get more poverty. If we invest in training and education and skills, so that people can improve, then I see that as being something. I want more skilled workers in our county. I want more people who are employed and motivated and moving themselves and their families forward. It just seems where you invest you get your return. Right now, I believe as a nation, certainly as a state, we have invested too much at the lowest end. We are told we have to do that to provide, but then we lose the motivation." He discussed the large numbers of people at the low end and their desire for us to do more for them commenting, "I would be happy to do more of the training and skill improvement level rather than in doing things that make it easier for them to remain and function at that very low level and minimum wage is one of those answers that I do not support minimum wage increases; certainly not at a state or local level, and really dependently not even at a national level. But, there are jobs there and opportunities for those who improve their skill level." He thanked Ms. Sobeck-Lynch for the job she is doing and urged that we continue in the direction of better trained workers.

Legislator LaForge referenced what Legislator Pullen said and commented that during their session, Bill Daily of Chautauqua County, commented there is a pool of machinists that are in their 50's and will be retiring within the next ten years. We also will be facing the same situation with our plants here. We need to work towards having skilled employees available. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch commented this is one reason why Alfred State College is working so closely with Dresser-Rand. She also invited committee members to attend BOCES "Community Day" today from 3-7 pm.

Cooperative Extension – L. Bliven reported that she continues to work with rural residents on how to use their land resources and generate income, especially this time

of year. Much of this is done through one-on-one phone calls. They are also doing proactive workshops and educational workshops, such as maple syrup production. It's another farming opportunity in our area as compared to years past when it was just a hobby.

We continue to work with STW on their three-county Buy Local Initiative and are hopeful to receive some funds through shared grants.

The Allegany Harvest Cooperative Market store at Houghton is moving forward and looking to support locals and identify producers; and also training the producers to sell in a retail store (verses roadside) and dealing with safety issues with the goal of a safe local food supply.

Every other year the Cornell Small Farm Program hosts a summit and this year Ms. Bliven will facilitate the Western NY meeting where they look for input from community leaders and farmers on how to meet needs. This year the meeting will be held in Warsaw.

Regarding 4-H; there is a shift in focus within the schools to educate more in the science and technology which correlates with what Ms. Sobeck-Lynch was referring to.

Legislator Pullen requested some data and numbers overall for the next meeting on the number of people using the Cornell Programs. She reported on facts regarding larger scale, commodity or dairy, and agencies serving these crop management issues. We are serving a different audience than 20 years ago. It's gone from more recreational to how an income can be generated from residential property.

County Planner – K. Dirlam reported on the Houghton College project and they are actively researching which site to focus on and which Engineers will utilize the work for the sports complex that will advance them to a Division III athletic facility with indoor tracks, fields and outdoor softball/baseball fields. There will be serious progress over the next 3-6 months. We are offering technical assistance with the project.

In M. Burkes, absence, Mr. Dirlam reported on the new Tourism brochures going to print and to be released within the next few weeks.

There has been some interaction regarding the water systems and efficiency grant program. Has been working with grant writers and letters will be distributed to the towns and villages this week and the application will be submitted within the next month.

We are completing the Communications Report of last year and will soon be ready to go to print.

The Planning Board will be meeting tonight and the meeting time has changed this year from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm the third Wednesday's of the month. Mr. Dirlam reported on several activities at the local levels regarding planning issues that are brought to the County Planning Board:

- The Town of Burns is in the process of passing a moratorium on hydro-fracing. Their adoption is similar to the one the Town of Alfred created three months ago.
- The Town of Grove has completely updated their zoning law and that will be reviewed within the next 30 days by the County Planning Board.
- The Town and Village of Almond have both passed resolutions to create a Comprehensive Planning Group to create a Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town of Wellsville is currently looking at site plan review laws.

Chairman Sinclair asked Mr. Dirlam to provide the yellow brochures at the next meeting that indicate the state law and mission of the Planning Board and its role. Mr. Dirlam

commented that there are certain issues that trigger the County Planning Board to review. The towns and villages submit items to the County PB and then the PB decipheres how these items will impact nearby towns, villages and county entities.

Office of Development & IDA – J. Foels, Director, reported on the Crossroads Project which is a high priority at this time and is progressing at the rate expected. The project is basically broken down into three aspects:

1. Logistics and Procedures - Interacting with the attorneys, County Treasurer, Legislature, checks and balances for a smooth flow.
2. Actual Waterline - Working with Labella Engineering Company and the achievement of benchmarks.
3. Project and Allegany Square, LLC – been in daily conversations with them, they have made numerous site visits with staff and progressing well.

J. Foels reported on the fiber optic and broadband capability capacity here in the county. ION continues to move aggressively and we are in line with their schedule. The structure is in place at the Crossroads facility and agreements are also in place.

The Legislature has identified two key projects which is the Crossroads water infrastructure and Route 417 infrastructure. J. Foels and K. Dirlam continue working on the Route 417 project as well.

Chairman Sinclair inquired about bid packets and J. Foels reported the preparation of the bid package for the Crossroads will take place over the next 4-6 weeks, but we stay on track for a March or April date. We have to be sensitive to the needs of our customer and some details have not yet been finalized.

Legislator Graves inquired about the Swain resort with the warm winter. J. Foels reported the following:

- As long as temps are around or below 32 degrees they continue to make snow and are doing well.
- This year they had a high for number of season ticket holders and the highest turnout yet for schools.
- One problem they have is perception/reality. If people see the sun out and its 40 degrees and no snow on ground, people don't think of going skiing. They are very aggressive marketers and have re-done the restaurant and coffee bar areas.
- Working on reinvesting in building upgrades and K. Dirlam working on a residential subdivision with Swain development.

Good of the Order – Nothing to report.

With no further business, a motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen and carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen L. Whitfield
Confidential Secretary to Director of Development

NOTE: Information on Housing begins on the next page.

Addendum A

Housing report to County

Fred Sinclair, Vicki Grant, Lynne Faecke, and Charles Kalthoff met to discuss and develop some potential program designs that can address housing conditions, affordability, and availability in the County. Based on the housing data for the County there are a few key factors that define our area and many of the rural areas of the state. Generally much of the housing stock is 50 years or older which implies that environmental issues may be present (lead, asbestos, mold) and may be inefficient by today's energy and insulation standards. Older homes may also present building code violations that increase the cost of bringing housing up to housing quality standards (HQS). One area of concern is the potential impact on affordable housing if hydrofracing begins in the county. Stories from Pennsylvania indicate that housing is increasingly occupied by employees related to the drilling interests. Any large influx of workers would likely put pressure on available housing and assuredly raise rents. Making affordable housing more difficult for low income families in the county and likely causing spot shortages of housing in towns and villages near drilling areas.

ACCORD has been providing rehabilitation programs to the community since 1972. There is clearly an ongoing need to assist homeowners and renters in improving the conditions, availability, and affordability of housing. The generally lower value in housing makes it difficult to secure bank financing for improvements, particularly for lower income families. Landlords, due to lower incomes, keep rents lower than they might want simply to maintain occupancy, leaving fewer dollars for maintenance and improvements. Most of the housing improvement resources available to assist owners or renters is based on the income of the occupant of the housing. Funds for rehabilitation must first address environmental hazards, building code issues, and energy efficiency items. If the available funds cannot completely address all of these areas we cannot provide any funding. Further, specific funding sources restrict the amount of rehab dollars by the final value of the unit. If rehab costs more than half of the assessed value nothing can be done, unless we can identify other resources to fill the gap. ACCORD has worked with the county for years as their county-wide housing program provider, preparing and administering programs through Community Development Block Grant and the Federal HOME program. We suggest that we revive this relationship and look at the upcoming round of funding to develop a county-wide rehab program to systematically address housing needs around the county. One area that we feel we need to focus on is the need for water and sewer upgrades or replacement. These targeted improvements could use the same funding sources.

Allegany County has the highest percentage of mobile home housing in the State. Much of this is old and cannot be brought up to code or housing quality standards. The solution is to remove the mobile home and replace it with a double wide. New York State has several housing designs that they have approved for this type of program. A county-wide effort to systematically seek funding to replace 5-6 units a year could

dramatically improve the quality and safety of housing. ACCORD could assist in preparing and delivering this type of program design.

Counties throughout the State are a major payer of housing costs for their clients eligible for DSS services, i.e. rents and utilities. Vicki raised concerns about available housing for singles, the quality and cost of housing for families, and special needs housing. Many of the current clients would fall under and benefit from the above mentioned rehab and replacement programs. Specifically, single room occupancy housing appears to be a need. As many of these persons are recently released from jail or other treatment programs they can be considered homeless and a facility might be able to be developed that provided housing for these persons. We would need to find a building or site that could be accessible to community services and transportation. ACCORD has used the Homeless Housing Assistance Program several times and could assist in developing and managing this type of facility. We will be researching models from around the state for housing these special populations.

There will likely be some upcoming opportunities for grant funding to address some of these needs. We anticipate disaster funding being available in March and may address some limited issues in select areas of the county. The Consolidated Funding Application making available all State housing resources is likely, pending approval of the state budget, in May or June of this year. The above approaches are generally all potential projects for submittal. When new funding rounds arise, ACCORD housing staff will research grant opportunities to improve and increase the housing stock in Allegany County as they become available. We look forward to working with the County in this endeavor.

Addendum B

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a federally funded program authorized by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Office of Community Renewal is New York State's administrative agency for the CDBG Program. The CDBG Program provides grants to smaller communities in order to: ensure decent, affordable housing for all; provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities; create jobs and expand business opportunities for implementing a variety of community and economic development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization and economic development; and to provide improved community facilities and services.

The New York CDBG Program provides community development grants to towns, villages, and cities with a population under 50,000 and counties with an unincorporated population under 200,000. The CDBG Program provides smaller communities with the opportunity to make local decisions concerning community development without duly increasing the local tax burden of their citizens. Please visit our [Eligible Communities](#) page to see if your community is currently eligible for New York CDBG funding.

Under the CDBG Program, approximately \$50 million of funding is available annually to eligible communities within New York State. As part of a historic initiative to transform New York State's model for economic development and job creation, on September 2, 2011, Governor Cuomo and Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) announced the creation of a NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Marking a fundamental shift in how economic development resources are allocated, the CFA will serve as a more efficient and effective tool to streamline and expedite the State's efforts to generate sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities across the state.

In addition to HCR, eight other state agencies and authorities have pooled together resources to be made available through the CFA. HCR has dedicated up to \$169 million in resources to affordable housing and community revitalization projects through the CFA. NYS CDBG funding is included in those resources.

Towns, villages, and cities are eligible to receive up to \$400,000 for Housing and Public Facilities, and up to \$600,000 for Public Infrastructure (water/sewer only) projects. County applicants can receive up to \$750,000 for Housing, Public Facilities, and Public Infrastructure projects. Applicants applying jointly for assistance with Public Infrastructure (water/sewer only) projects may receive up to \$900,000. For Economic Development grants, the maximum award is \$750,000. Community Planning grants are a maximum of \$25,000.

Applicants of the CDBG program must ensure that 70% of all activities funded under the program primarily benefit low- and moderate-income households-- those with incomes at or below 80% of the area [median income](#) established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Each CDBG-funded activity must also meet one of the [national objectives](#): benefiting low- and moderate-income households; aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or meeting community development needs having a particular urgency.

Communities wishing to [apply](#) for CDBG funds are encouraged to attend one of the Office of Community Renewal's [Application Workshops](#) held annually across the New York State, in the fall. Communities are also encouraged to contact the Office of Community Renewal as early as possible to discuss the viability of potential projects, as well as to review successful applications from prior rounds of competition.

Objectives of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

As set forth in the Federal Housing and Community Development Act, the Primary Objective of the CDBG program is, "the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income." Under the Act, CDBG funds are intended for the support of community development activities that are directed toward the following specific objectives:

1. The elimination of slums and blight and the prevention of blighting influences and the deterioration of property and neighborhood and community facilities of importance to the welfare of the community, principally persons of low and moderate income.

2. The elimination of conditions which are detrimental to health, safety and public welfare, through code enforcement, demolition, interim rehabilitation assistance and related activities.
3. The conservation and expansion of the nation's housing stock in order to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for all persons, but principally those of low and moderate income.
4. The expansion and improvement of the quantity and the quality of community services, principally for persons of low and moderate income, which are essential for sound community development and for the development of viable urban communities.
5. A more rational utilization of land and other natural resources, and the better arrangement of residential, commercial, industrial, recreational and other needed activity centers.
6. The reduction of the isolation of income groups within communities and geographical areas and the promotion of an increase in the diversity and vitality of neighborhoods through the spatial de- concentration of housing opportunities for persons of lower income and the revitalization of deteriorating or deteriorated neighborhoods.
7. The restoration and preservation of properties of special value for historic, architectural or aesthetic reasons.
8. The alleviation of physical and economic distress through the stimulation of private investment and community revitalization in areas without population migration or a stagnating or declining tax base.
9. The conservation of the nation's scarce energy resources, improvement of energy efficiency, and the provision of alternative and renewable energy sources of supply.

Objectives of the New York State CDBG Program

In support of the State's long-term objectives, the New York State CDBG Program will:

1. Preserve and increase the supply of decent, safe, and affordable housing available to all low- and moderate-income households, and help identify and develop available resources to assist in the development of housing.
2. Improve the ability of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers to access rental housing and homeownership opportunities.
3. Address the shelter, housing, and service needs of the homeless, poor, and others with special needs.
4. Provide communities with assistance to undertake economic development initiatives.
5. Provide assistance to help communities undertake community infrastructure, facility, and service projects affecting public health, safety, and welfare.
6. Project selection shall take into consideration the recommendation of the relevant regional economic development council or the Commissioner's determination that the proposed project aligns with the regional strategic priorities of the respective region.

Outline

Available Funds

Through an annual allocation of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), approximately \$50 million in CDBG funds are available each year. New

York State intends to allocate these funds to eligible non-entitlement grant recipients according to the following approximate allocations: annual round competition involving the funding categories of Housing and Public Infrastructure/Facilities (60%), open round Economic Development (30%), Innovative Projects and Special Assistance (5%), Imminent Threat (2%), Administration (2%), and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (1%), and Community Planning (1%). Actual allocation percentages are dependent upon the number of applications received in any given year.

Eligible Applicants

Cities, towns, and villages located in non-entitlement areas with a population under 50,000 and counties with an unincorporated population of 200,000 are eligible to apply for CDBG funding through the Office of Community Renewal. Eligible applicants must be in substantial compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders that pertain to the CDBG Program.

Types of Applications

New York State's CDBG Program is divided into two primary components: the Annual Competitive Round and the Economic Development Grants; and four secondary components: Community Planning Grants, available once a year, Imminent Threat, and Technical Assistance and Capacity Building.

Applicants applying for a competitive round grant must address and resolve specific community development needs within the areas of Housing, Public Infrastructure, or Public Facilities.

Joint and County Applications

Under New York State's CDBG Program, two or more eligible applicants facing a common problem may submit a joint application. In order to qualify, local governments must not only share a common problem, but must also be able to demonstrate that a joint effort is required to solve the problem. With the exception of housing applications, joint applications submitted only for administrative convenience are not accepted.

Counties may apply on behalf of units of general local government located within their jurisdiction when the unit of general local government has authorized the county to apply. The unit of general local government will be considered the applicant for determining grant limits, and its statistics will be used for purpose of the selection factors.

Maximum Grant Amounts

Annual Competitive Round

Towns, Cities, Villages:

Housing/Public Facilities	\$400,000
Public Infrastructure (water/sewer	\$600,000

only)

Counties:

Housing/Public Facilities/Public Infrastructure \$750,000

Eligible Activities

The activities eligible under the CDBG Program are identified in [Section 105\(a\) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974](#), as amended and 24 CFR 570.482, as amended.

Primary and National Objectives

All CDBG projects are required to meet the two program goals - the primary and national objectives. The primary objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. To achieve this primary objective, applicants must ensure that at least 70 percent of its grant funds are used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families.

In addition to meeting the primary objective, applicants must also meet one of the three National Objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight, or address an urgent community development need. All applicants must maintain data to demonstrate that the project is meeting one of the above listed objectives.

Types of Grants

Housing

There are three types of housing projects eligible for NYS CDBG funding: housing rehabilitation, direct homeownership assistance, and private water/wastewater system assistance. The primary goal of any housing project is to increase the supply of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents. Through a needs analysis and detailed survey of income and housing conditions, each applicant will be able to determine the most suitable approach for addressing these goals.

1. Housing Rehabilitation

Many of New York State's communities are concerned with high rates of substandard housing that are difficult to reduce because of homeowners' inability to address costly repairs. In order to make an application competitive, a community should conduct two types of surveys: a housing conditions survey to determine the location and severity of the substandard conditions of housing, and an income survey to identify applicants who are income eligible and willing to participate. When conducting the housing conditions

survey, Applicants should adhere to the Office of Community Renewal's definition of substandard housing as stated in the Annual Competitive Round Application Packet.

The CDBG program is highly flexible, allowing for communities to develop an approach to rehabilitation that best suits their needs. The following are examples of program designs:

- Direct financial assistance as a grant or loan or a combination thereof.
- A target area approach for substandard housing located in a defined geographic area.
- A non-target area approach for substandard housing on scattered sites.
- A focus on a certain income categories (i.e. below 50% of the median income).
- Selection criteria based on severity of need or first come, first serve approach.
- Rehabilitation can be for owner-occupied, renter occupied, or vacant units to be occupied by low- and moderate-income persons.

All of the above are examples of the ways in which a community can address their substandard housing conditions. Programs designed to conduct housing rehabilitation activities that provide safe and habitable housing primarily for low-and moderate-income households at standards of quality meeting New York State building codes and federal and local regulations are strongly encouraged.

2. **Homeownership**

In addition to housing rehabilitation needs, communities may have homeownership needs that could be addressed through a homeownership assistance program. Such a program would provide financial assistance to low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers for the purchase of homes for sale. As with the Rehabilitation activities, the program is designed to be flexible so communities can determine the appropriate means of assistance. Activities that are commonly found in homeownership programs include the following:

- Direct financial assistance including down payment assistance and closing costs
- Counseling of prospective homeowners to ensure applicants have an understanding of program obligations, budgeting, and overhead costs.
- Minor rehabilitation of certain houses that are otherwise structurally sound.
- A successful homeownership application will include: information on the manner in which the program will be marketed to potential applicants; a list of potential eligible applicants to document the market and need; real estate data including average cost of homes and number of homes available within the price range; and evidence that the amount available for assistance will be sufficient to purchase the available homes.

3. **Private Water/Wastewater System Assistance**

Providing safe drinking water and wastewater systems to individual property owners falls under the category of housing, as these types of assistance provide a direct benefit to those receiving funding. Direct assistance activities can include drilling of private wells, construction or rehabilitation of septic systems, and installation of lateral connections to

low- and moderate-income households from the public water/sewer mains. Applications for funding of lateral connections can be stand-alone projects or can be part of a larger [public infrastructure](#) project. However, in order for a community to construct the laterals out of CDBG funds, the homeowners must be low- and moderate-income.

Successful applications for private water/wastewater systems will include evidence that property owners are eligible and willing to participate in the program, information as to how the program will be marketed, and information on the level of subsidy and type of subsidy (loan or grant).

Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure

Communities throughout New York are faced with a variety of issues that affect public health, safety, and welfare. Through the CDBG public facilities grants, many of these issues can be addressed. At least 51% of the persons benefiting from these activities must qualify as low- and moderate-income, as determined by the U.S. Census or an income survey. In general, public facilities projects fall into two categories: public infrastructure and public service facilities.

Public Infrastructure

Under the public infrastructure category, projects may include: water source development, storage, and distribution; sanitary sewage collection and treatment; flood control and storm water drainage; public works such as sidewalks, streets, parking, open space, and publicly owned utilities. Eligible programs can include the repair or replacement of existing systems, construction of new systems, or expansion of existing systems into previously unserved areas. Projects that provide assistance for lateral connections for water and sewer projects are considered under the [housing category](#).

For projects that require funding above the maximum funding level available from the Office of Community Renewal, the applicant must find additional sources of funding and provide evidence that funding is committed to the project. For additional information on other sources of information, applicants may contact the [New York Co-Funding Initiative](#).

Public Facilities

Through the public facilities category, applicants can seek funding for structures to house or serve special-needs populations; senior services; child care centers; removal of architectural barriers for the disabled (lifts, automatic doors, ramps, etc.); and multi-purpose buildings housing several qualifying activities for low- and moderate-income persons. CDBG funds can be used for construction or renovation of facilities, but cannot be used to cover the day-to-day operational costs, nor can funds be used for buildings that are primarily for the general conduct of government business (i.e. town halls).

For projects that require funding above the maximum funding level available from the Office of Community Renewal, the applicant must find additional sources of funding and provide evidence that funding is committed to the project.

Applying for Funding

Eligible applicants seeking to apply for funding must complete the Regional Economic Development Council's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The CFA will be the single application economic development projects must complete. Applications for competitive round CDBG funds submitted under the 2011 NOFA may be considered by Regional Economic Development Councils. New applications for these programs will be accepted in connection with future Notices of Funding Availability.

Last Updated: 6/3/11

Addendum C

MEMORANDUM

2/12/2012

TO: Vicki Grant, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Homeless Services

I can't exactly recall the extent of your homeless challenges but I do remember that they were at a level of concern. I will share with you sufficient information in this memo so you can advise me how I can be most helpful to you given the dimensions of your homeless issues.

First, landlord status needs to be viewed in a positive light. By landlord we should mean – control. If the local district controls the housing that is being used to meet your homeless needs then landlord becomes a less meaningful term. For instance, you do not need to own a housing unit to control it. The first homeless housing unit I owned was a tax acquired property in 2001 that I converted to use for sex offenders – level 3 primarily but some level 2 as well. It was the location of the property that was attractive and that made it so acceptable (politically) as a place to house sex offenders. So, I own it and I am the landlord. I make the rules. Each homeless placement there must sign an agreement (similar to a lease). They either follow the rules or I evict them. If they are on parole and I evict them they usually go back to prison. Almost NEVER do they violate my housing rules! There is no living in manager or supervisor. Parole and Probation visit the home routinely. My investigative staff also visit there about once a week. Actually, with very few exceptions, sex offender placements in this facility keep it clean, follow the rules and stay out of trouble. Those that do get violated go back to prison – pretty simple!

Second, I lease apartments and housing units for a monthly rental amount and I then in turn use them to house homeless – single males or single females. I am not the landlord but I control the premises! This is the real key. In these cases too, I have all homeless individuals sign an agreement. I put 2, 3 or even 4 single adults in one of these apartments or housing units at a time. I “control” the environment. I set

the rules, not the landlord or owner. I have found that it is costly and wasteful to have a manager or run a facilitated program. I run safe and healthy units. I do have to provide clean linen and do some occasional clean up. However, no single persons stay on in this housing for very long – typical stay has an average of under one week. When all stays are averaged in the mean rises a bit but not too much.

Third, I do own a house that is used for housing families and single adults in addition to the apartments. I use the same agreements and again I provide a monitoring system to insure compliance. The real crux of this whole matter boils down to what you need to do to administer safe, effective and EFFICIENT homeless housing services. By efficient, I mean that my total costs, including everything (heat, electric, maintenance, cleaning, etc.) comes to under \$50,000 per year for all of Delaware's homeless – including the sex offenders. How is this possible? Well, we do not use hotels and motels – except for transients - that means persons or families traveling through Delaware County needing one or two nights of a motel stay.

I will advise you that if you are not the landlord and you do not control the premises of your homeless housing units you will be paying for what amounts to a shelter program – shelter programs are staffed and expensive – they have built in high administrative costs. If you don't use this approach and you use hotels and motels – they have minimal rules – cable TV, drinking, smoking, drugs, sex, etc. All of these things can go on and, in fact, do go on in every homeless housing arrangement in NYS where homeless individuals are placed in hotels and motels. In view of the minimal rules – typically related to noise as the # 1 rule – hotels and motels are a highly attractive placement for homeless individuals. The average length of stay in a hotel or motel for a homeless person as compared with a structured group placement in housing controlled by the local district is 5 to 25 times longer!

I extend an invitation for you to come to Delaware and view our housing, meet my homeless staff and see what we do and how we do it. If you want something more meaty and useful for your legislative types, I will discuss a consulting arrangement with you. I have been studying upstate homeless issues and factors for about 15 years. I think I have a very workable solution.

So, in conclusion, you do not have to be a landlord. Real efficiency however is tied to the extent and nature of “control” you exercise over your homeless population; give them to someone else and it costs more; put them in hotels and motels and the cost is the highest! Would you believe that there are local districts (our size) spending more than \$1M a year on their homeless? Well, I can tell you it's true! I can't recall what your expenditures were on an annual basis (you may not have told me – I may not have asked) but if they are over even \$100,000 a year – you can reduce them!

Hope this is what you were looking for and that it is helpful. Give me a call when you want to talk about what's next.

Bill

Addendum D

About the NYS HOME Program (HOME)

The New York State HOME Program is administered by the New York State [Housing Trust Fund Corporation \(HTFC\)](#). The program uses federal HOME Investment Partnership Program funds to expand the supply of decent, safe, and affordable housing within the State.

Approximately \$33 million is available for capital (multifamily) projects and local program administrators (single family projects) in 2008.

The HOME Program funds a variety of activities through partnerships with counties, towns, cities, villages, private developers, and community-based non-profit housing organizations. The program provides funds to acquire, rehabilitate, or construct housing, or to provide assistance to low-income home-buyers and renters. Funds must be distributed in accordance with needs and priorities identified in the State's Consolidated Plan. Federal HOME Program regulations (24 CFR Part 92) set forth requirements for formula allocations, eligible activities, matching funds, qualifications as affordable housing, and compliance with other federal requirements. The regulations also establish special requirements for community housing development organizations (CHDOs). Project selection shall take into consideration the recommendation of the relevant regional economic development council or the Commissioner's determination that the proposed project aligns with the regional strategic priorities of the respective region.

Eligible Applicants

Any private for-profit or not-for-profit entity that can demonstrate the capacity to develop and operate a qualifying project is eligible to apply for HOME project funding. Units of general local government that have not been designated by HUD as participating jurisdictions and not-for-profit corporations that meet certain administrative tests may also apply as local program administrators. Jurisdictions which receive HOME program funding directly from the federal government may not apply for New York State HOME Program funds.

Eligible Areas

All areas of the State are eligible, subject to the funding limitations described below.

Income Eligibility

HOME Program funds may only be used to assist households with incomes at or below 80 percent of area median income. Rental projects must primarily serve households with incomes at or below 60 percent of area median income. Assisted rental units must remain affordable for a period of between five and 20 years, depending on the initial amount of subsidy provided for the project.

Funding Limitations

HOME Program funds may be used to pay for acquisition, rehabilitation, construction, and certain related soft costs. Funds may also be used for relocation costs, tenant-based rental assistance, down payment and closing costs, and some administrative and planning costs, subject to limitations set forth in the federal regulations. Funds may only be used for residential housing. There are restrictions on the use of HOME funds for properties assisted by certain other federal programs. Fifteen percent of each allocation of HOME Program funds is reserved for qualified community housing development organizations (CHDO) in accordance with federal law. Of the remaining funds, a minimum of 80 percent is reserved for projects that are not located in communities that have been designated by HUD as participating jurisdictions.

**Planning and Economic Development Committee
March 21, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Bliven, C. Braack, D. Fanton, J. Foels, R. Lynch, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, S. Torrey,

Media Present: Bob Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Planning and Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Planning and Economic Development Committee minutes of February 15, 2012.

Route 417 Water Extension in Wellsville

Development Director/IDA Executive Director John Foels distributed information, including a resolution by the Town of Wellsville, regarding the ongoing project on Route 417 that would extend municipal water to an unserved area of the Town of Wellsville. Mr. Foels indicated that grant funding through the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission), EDA (Economic Development Administration), and CFA (Consolidated Funding Application) is being investigated at this time and that he would have a clearer picture of a timeline in late summer or early fall.

The Housing Vision

Legislator Sinclair distributed a document highlighting a community (housing) assessment prepared by ACCORD. He indicated a broad spectrum of issues needs to be addressed in order to assist the low-income population of Allegany County. Legislator Sinclair noted that the County is mandated to provide housing for low income individuals/families who are enrolled in County programs such as DSS, Probation, Mental Health. Mr. Sinclair also noted that another population has been identified—those working families that live just above the poverty level, and therefore are not eligible for public assistance, have a hard time finding decent housing. He requested that committee members review the County Comprehensive Housing Plan, and when all communities in the County have been assessed, the committee would then get a sense of the housing stock for various populations.

Western Region Energy Sustainability Project

Legislator Sinclair indicated that resolution No. 41-12, authorizing Allegany County to enter into an agreement with Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board to manage the administration of a NYSERDA grant awarded under the Cleaner, Greener, Communities Regional Sustainability Planning Program, has been forwarded to Southern Tier West, but the County has not received response from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). He also noted that as soon as the County receives that response, it will determine our level of involvement.

There is a window of opportunity for submitting applications for hazard mitigation funds. Four recent natural disasters have been grouped together for funding purposes. However, the requests are due in two days. Legislator Sinclair asked that the Department of Public Works file the letters of intent regarding the County's road protection projects, which, he noted, are brief letters indicating an interest in taking advantage of the funding opportunity; a more detailed request would be required in round 2 if the County's project(s) is selected. Public works Chairman Dwight Fanton indicated he would find out the status of the letters of intent.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Employment and Training

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch submitted request to fill an Accountant position (PEF, Grade 7) which became vacant as the incumbent transferred to another department. She indicated she would like to begin advertising for the position, but would not hire until a four-week window for the possibility of return to Employment and Training, requested by the incumbent, was complete. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means Committee**

Additionally, Ms. Sobeck-Lynch distributed the February 2012 Allegany County Employment & Training report indicating the activity of the office for that month, including workshops and a display in the Wellsville Chamber window for March publicizing the office and what it does. Ms. Sobeck-Lynch also noted that her office and its local partners are investigating grant funding from the Department of Labor to help youthful offenders return to their communities without stigma.

Economic Development/IDA

Economic Development/IDA Director John E. Foels reported that his office has submitted an efficiency in government grant application to Albany for \$50,000, a first-quarter objective for his office.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative Lynn Bliven distributed a handout illustrating the activities of her office over the past 12 months. Included among those activities were assisting new and start-up producers in bee-keeping/honey production,

maple production, vegetable/fruit producers, berry growers, dairy and cheese production, poultry, and livestock such as beef cattle. Additionally, Ms. Bliven indicated that Cornell Cooperative Extension assists food producers with aspects such as product/recipe certification, labeling, and marketing. It was also noted that despite a decrease in the number of farms in the County, production, in terms of commodities and dollar value, remains high.

Ms. Bliven noted that this is Agriculture Literacy Week and that 14 schools, 28 classrooms, and a total of 410 students were exposed to the impact of farming in our community. *Seed, Soil, Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food*, a book which each participating school received for its library, describes the process by which air and water combine with seed, soil, and sun to create nearly all the food we eat.

Soil and Water Conservation

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey distributed a volume, Allegany County Forest Management Plan which included a cutting schedule for the next ten years and management practices that need to be used. He requested the committee review the booklet and indicated he would return to next month's committee meeting to answer any questions regarding the plan.

Mr. Torrey also indicated that the Snyder Lot located in Angelica is ready to be cut if the committee wanted to go forward with a cut. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried.

Legislator Crandall wished to clarify and remind the committee that each lot in the report is part of a program funded through New York State (confirmed by Mr. Torrey). He noted that discussion regarding separating the County from any of these parcels (e.g. the sale of same) would take state legislation to do so. It was also noted that how the County manages these lands is more than a County issue.

Mr. Torrey also distributed a 2012 Proposed Plan of Work which includes that office's activities: district conservation programs, water resources management, conservation education, county forest, revenues, and administration and staffing.

County Historian

County Historian Craig Braack distributed an updated inventory of items to be moved from the County Historian's Office and County Museum to a new facility. He would like to have a discussion regarding asbestos abatement and removal of walls in new facility. It was decided, on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair to refer this idea of removal of the walls and overall moving of furnishings to the Facilities and Communications Committee, and carried. **Refer to Facilities and Communications Committee**

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:01 p.m. on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
APRIL 18, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, S. Alsworth, L. Bliven, D. Burdick, D. Cady, D. Fanton, G. Hanchett, R. Lynch, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, S. Torrey

Media Present: Bob Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried to approve the Planning and Economic Development Committee minutes of March 21, 2012.

County Forest Management Plan

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey and Agricultural Environmental Management Planner Scott Alsworth addressed the Committee regarding the *County Forest Management Plan* which was distributed to Committee members at last month's meeting. Chairman Sinclair suggested that the Plan be ratified by the Planning & Economic Development Committee and sent on to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group. Discussion of the Plan centered around mineral rights on County-owned parcels (to which County Attorney Miner noted that some research would need to be conducted for a definitive answer) and actions to be taken against invasive species such as honeysuckle and multiflora roses on County-owned land (chemical versus mechanical means). It was noted that these plants can lie dormant and return when conditions are favorable. The most surefire way to eradicate these plants is to allow hardwood growth to close the canopy, but that takes many years. Discussion also occurred on steps to be taken, per DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) guidelines, once the ash borer migrates to Allegany County. Chairman Sinclair noted that this issue will be revisited when necessary. The Plan was accepted for implementation and referral to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **REFER TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

Housing and Tax Parcels

Legislator Sinclair noted that he and ACCORD (Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development) Housing Director Lynn Faecke had visited some of the tax sale properties in the County for possible improvement and use to relieve housing shortages for low income individuals/families enrolled in County programs. He noted that they looked at both residential and commercial properties, and although some had promise, it was possible that the cost of rehab for those structures might be prohibitive. He further noted that, to date, he had received no proposals regarding any of said properties from ACCORD. Legislator Sinclair noted that housing programs from the State are "alive and well and that money is available for addressing housing issues at a lot of different levels and we'll continue to look for opportunities to address our housing problems." He reminded the Committee that he has requested community (housing) assessments from various housing-involved County agencies.

Departmental Reports

Employment & Training

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch distributed her report for March 2012. Ms. Lynch noted that her office has been working more closely with the Department of Social Services to begin training for applicants prior to their being granted public assistance benefits and will evaluate this process to determine if early intervention produces a positive outcome. It was also noted that all applicants are required to take the TABE test (Testing of Adult Basic Education) to determine reading and math skills. Ms. Lynch also updated the Committee on the grant funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to help youthful offenders return to their communities without stigma which she had hoped to leverage. The good news is that Allegany County does not meet the requisite 50 juveniles to qualify for that grant. Finally, Ms. Lynch noted that this year, the Department has \$100,000 for the Summer Youth Employment Program, an increase over last year's \$75,000. Ms. Lynch responded to Committee members' queries regarding job placement numbers. Ms. Lynch noted that approximately 100 people have been placed in jobs since January 2012. Chairman Sinclair requested information regarding the distribution of WIA (Workforce Investment Act) funding.

Economic Development/IDA

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels was not available for the meeting. Chairman Sinclair noted that for this month, the Committee would forgo reports from Economic Development/IDA and the Planning Board (see below), but responded to questions from Committee members, including the progress on the Crossroads Development (working closely with the engineer who is formalizing the bidding package which should be ready soon) and that developers are still planning to go ahead with financing and the opening of the Truck Stop. Progress had been stalled, but the project is now moving forward.

Planning/Planning Board

County Planner Kier Dirlam was unable to attend the meeting.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative Lynn Bliven presented a brief overview of activities conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Among those highlighted were two high-tunnel workshops in the last month for vegetable producers looking to extend the growing season. Ms. Bliven noted that this month she is focusing her report on fruit and vegetable growers. Cornell Cooperative Extension is working with fruit and vegetable producers (24 farms and four start-ups), ranging from small enterprises to large-scale commercial operations; assisting the Amish community with vegetable production; mentoring small grains and hops producers; and training those involved in the four farmers' markets in the County regarding agricultural practices and food safety. Ms. Bliven noted that a new challenge faces fruit growers: the spotted-wing fruit fly. Unlike the typical household pests which consume rotting fruit, this variety attacks ripening fruit. Cooperative Extension is educating producers about these pests. Ms. Bliven also noted, in response to the earlier ash borer discussion, less than one percent of forested lands in New York State is infested. She further noted that it has not yet arrived in Allegany County. Ms. Bliven warned about increased concern regarding parasite and disease issues among livestock. Thanks to the milder winter, many parasites that may have succumbed in the cold did not, and can be quite virulent. Further, she cautioned that many of these viruses and parasites can be transmitted from animals to humans. Parasites are expected to be a large concern for smaller ruminant producers (sheep, goat, and alpaca). Those are the types of issues Cooperative Extension is trying to be more proactive with before they lead to economic

loss. Finally, Ms. Bliven informed the Committee about Cooperative Extension's Intensive Rotational Grazing, Master Gardener, and Master Forest Owners programs.

Soil and Water Conservation

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey presented an overview of his Department's recent activity including: status of current grants [Round 18 of the NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement & Control Grant Year 7 (\$40,000), Finger Lakes/Lake Ontario Watershed Protection (FL_LOWPA/\$100,000); Great Lakes Basin Erosion and Sediment Control Grant due June 1, 2012]; technical assistance rendered (four stream permits completed and sent in; one completed and awaiting signatures; completed permit application for Town of Genesee for sluice replacement); completed response to Army Corps; preparation of Snyder Lot for timber sale; Envirothon Regional Competition to be held at Letchworth State Park April 25, 2012—Fillmore, Cuba, Canaseraga competing; and arrival of computers and development of a database to track time spent on projects and programs.

County Historian

County Historian was not present.

Introduction of Executive Director of the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

New Executive Director of the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Gretchen Hanchett was introduced and presented an update of her activities for the past two weeks (since assuming the position). Ms. Hanchett noted that five new board members have been added, that the Executive Director/Tourism Coordinator have been combined as one position, and the second position, Tourism Specialist, will better meet the deliverables. Additionally, Ms. Hanchett noted that Scenic Tour signs should be installed this month and that she will be meeting with Time Warner and Phyllis Garrity of Houghton regarding helping to host the 1812 Philharmonic Overture in conjunction with the Civil War Reenactment.

Good of the Order

Majority Leader T. Hopkins called a caucus at 2 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m. on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MAY 16, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: F. Sinclair, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, C. Crandall (Absent: P. Curran, D. Pullen)

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Burdick, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, J. Foels, J. Margeson, T. Miner, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey

Media Present: no media present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of April 18, 2012.

Appointment of Michael Johnsen to IDA Board

Legislator Sinclair initiated discussion of the appointment of Michael Johnsen, Town of Grove Supervisor, to the IDA Board, replacing Dave Crowley who retired from the IDA Board effective May 16, 2012. Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Executive Director John Foels noted several of Mr. Johnsen's professional accomplishments in response to a comment that Mr. Johnsen would be a representative of District 5, and there would be no one on the IDA Board representing District 2. Legislator Healy conceded that Mr. Johnsen is an outstanding person, but that he could not support the appointment as he feels it is imperative for District 2 to have representation. It was subsequently noted that the IDA by-laws do not limit the IDA Board membership to five members, but that it has included only five members for the past 30 years. It was also noted there is no legal precedent requiring representation from all five districts. Legislator Sinclair requested that Mr. Foels bring a request to the IDA Board to consider increasing the number of board members to allow for more equitable District representation. Mr. Foels agreed to do so. Michael Johnsen's appointment to the IDA Board was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. (Two votes opposed: Legislators Healy and Graves.) **Prepare Resolution**

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation

Legislator Sinclair presented a brief history of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, noting that the first one was adopted in 2005 and expired in 2010. The most recent Plan (2010-15) has been approved by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and has been approved and ratified by 42 of the 44 entities involved in the Plan. Each locality, it was noted, received a disk with the entire plan. The Plan, which identifies potential hazards and proposes action to prevent or mitigate them, opens the door for localities to gain access to pre-disaster mitigation funding. It is a competitive process in which the potential disaster is identified, and, based on a good benefit/cost ratio, would have a better chance for funding. Legislator Sinclair also noted that the County had been fairly successful in obtaining funds prior to the current Plan. There are, he said, about five projects that are under consideration for funding at this time. The issue, he continued, is finding a "home" for the program. He believes there should be a central location or coordinator who has oversight for funding opportunities and alerts the

appropriate agency to apply for the funding, convenes an annual meeting, and compiles information for the subsequent plan. Some discussion ensued regarding the difference between the Plan under discussion and the local plans created by each municipality. Discussion also included possible areas that could assume the responsibility, but many were dismissed as not having enough funding, manpower, or inclination to take on another project. Legislator Hopkins noted it would be a pity if the Plan sat idle between revisions, when it could assist in getting funding and because of the resources expended to get the Plan prepared. Legislator Sinclair encouraged Committee members to consider this issue and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

Employment & Training

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch distributed a document regarding the Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board (WIB), Inc., titled "A New Age for Workforce Development." The document was presented to provide an overview of the WIB and how it's staffed (accompanying flow chart). The funding comes from the federal government to the WIB, and Employment & Training requests the money from them. She noted that funding is based on the census, meaning that it's approximately a 40 percent-60 percent split between Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties respectively. This year, Ms. Lynch noted, the Employment & Training budget from WIB is about \$345,000. She also indicated that almost all of that funding is gone at this time (the WIB fiscal year ends June 30). Employment & Training has about \$900 remaining to be used for training for adults and \$2,000 for dislocated workers. Ms. Lynch did point out that the Office is doing more assessment of applicants before giving out training dollars (i.e., tuition) because funding is so limited. Applicants are put through the Department of Labor's Job Zone for career exploration, and, in partnership with Alfred State, applicants may use the college's "Career Beam" program. She informed the Committee that she had recently met with her counterparts in Cattaraugus County, noting that they get about 1,700 visits per month, but half of that is for unemployment. That being said, Allegany County Employment & Training gets nearly that amount of traffic (over 600 visits per month).

Monthly Report

The Employment & Training monthly report showed no anomalies. Ms. Lynch pointed out that the Office is gearing up for Summer Youth Employment Program, noting that it will receive \$125,000 this year (over the \$75,000 received last year) to employ County youth. She explained that the funding actually goes through the Commissioner of Social Services, so the two areas are working together. Ms. Lynch also attached a flyer to her monthly report advertising an upcoming Job Fair scheduled for June 1.

Soil & Water Conservation District

Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director Scott Torrey distributed a sheet illustrating the current grant activity in his department. He also noted that he'd received notice that the State committee had approved the Department's Round 18 grants for \$285,000; he is waiting for it to be released from the Governor's Office. Mr. Torrey also indicated that current total grant activities amount to just over \$500,000. Mr. Torrey also noted that the Forest Management Plan that had been referred to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group had been approved and will be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Economic Development/IDA

Unemployment Figures

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels noted that unemployment in April in Allegany County was 8.9 percent, down from 9.4 percent, the lowest it's been since February 2008. In actual numbers that translates into 21,700 Allegany County residents are employed; 2,100 Allegany County residents are unemployed.

Crossroads Project

The Site Plan development is ongoing. Mr. Foels noted that the plan received final approval from the U.S. Corps of Engineers on the water project, saying that was a big milestone which had to occur before the project could continue. He anticipates the project will move forward during the current calendar year.

Empire State Development

Empire State Development has been in the area over the last several weeks and has been working with several companies/clients that are looking at potential projects this summer. Mr. Foels noted that this is the first time in several years that Empire State Development has been in the area with senior management, so arrangements were made for them to meet with people/organizations who had priority projects (including individual corporate projects and infrastructure projects).

ION

Mr. Foels noted that ION has been delayed a bit in fiber installation, not just in Allegany County, but in other projects in the Northeast, due to a variety of reasons, including "environmentals."

Planning/Planning Board

County Planner Kier Dirlam distributed a summary from TVGA Consultants of all grants that are "suddenly" available from New York State through the CFA (Consolidated Funding Application). Mr. Dirlam noted that each time the heading "Program Agency Notes" appears in the left margin, it indicates a separate grant program. He also noted that this new format rolls all programs into this single "portal," all with deadlines of July 16, 2012. He also indicated that Agriculture and Markets is now included as are Council on the Arts and Parks grants. Some of these had later deadlines, but all are now part of this single "package" due July 16. Discussion ensued among committee members suggesting that this document be disseminated to as many people and organizations as possible, via the Planning Office and the Clerk of the Board's Office. Mr. Dirlam also cautioned that because grant applications are submitted electronically, applicants should not wait until the due date because, based on the last round of applications, the volume was so great on the last day that the server crashed.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

No representative was present; no report given.

County Historian

No representative was present; no report given.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

No representative was present; no report given.

Old Business—NYSERDA Grant

Legislator Sinclair updated the Committee on the progress the consultants are making on the NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) Grant (for

sustainability, reducing carbon footprint and CO2 emissions, and greenhouse gas emissions). Originally, the consultant was going to summon County experts regarding these issues to a meeting, but Legislator Sinclair believes that the consultants should let us know what, specifically, they are looking for, and we can send that information to a variety of local experts. Then the consultants can compile the information and conduct discussions from which they can draw the appropriate information. Feeling this is a better approach, and noting that Richard Zink of Southern Tier West is of the same opinion, Legislator Sinclair indicated that he would follow up and submit that suggestion to help create a better product, perhaps enhancing our potential for the County's receiving a portion of the available \$93,000,000.

Appointment of Dwight "Mike" Healy as Legislative Representative for the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

The appointment of Dwight "Mike" Healy as Legislative Representative for the Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JUNE 20, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: F. Sinclair, P. Curran, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, C. Crandall (Absent: D. Pullen)

Others Present: S. Alsworth, L. Bliven, J. Common, K. Dirlam, L. Faecke, D. Fanton, A. Finnemore, J. Foels, V. Grant, D. Hanchett, G. Hanchett, J. Margeson, T. Miner, T. Ross, C. Santora

Media Present: B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes

Legislator Healy requested an amendment to the Planning and Economic Development Committee minutes of May 16, 2012, to reflect that Chairman Crandall was not in attendance. Secretary to the Clerk of the Board Cindy Santora will verify this. (Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that Chairman Crandall was in attendance for most of the May 16 meeting.) The minutes were approved following a motion made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. One opposing vote by Legislator Healy was recorded.

The Sale of Forest Products from the Snyder Lot

Agricultural Environmental Management Planner Scott Alsworth distributed a handout delineating 2012 Snyder Lot Timber/Pulp Estimations. Some discussion ensued regarding the precise location of the lot and whether there were any State lands adjacent to it. In response, it was noted that the lot is on Common Road, just before East Road, beyond the Fairgrounds in Angelica. It was also noted that there are state lands across the road. Mr. Alsworth requested approval to bid 473 trees for 81,401 board feet from the Snyder Lot. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

County-wide CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Housing Rehabilitation and Residential Water/Waste Water System Assistance Grant Application with ACCORD Corp.

ACCORD Corporation Housing and Facilities Management Director Lynne Faecke distributed a packet giving a brief overview of the grant and its parameters and processes, as well as a sample contract and sample resolution. She noted that the County and ACCORD are applying for \$750,000 in funding to serve low/moderate income families. ACCORD is targeting the people with the most urgent needs and/or lowest income for the Direct Benefit National Objective as listed on her handout. She noted that she had been in conversation with Deputy Public Health Director Thomas Hull and will work closely with him to use a portion of the grant monies (\$200,000) for well and sewer replacements; she proposes to use the balance for housing rehab and/or mobile home replacement. Finally, she noted that the grant requires one public hearing at the time of the application (which is due August 17, 2012) and one during the grant administration process. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 9, 2012, prior to the Board meeting. Ms. Faecke will publish the public hearing notice by Friday, June 29, 2012. Approval to go forward by filing the Allegany County Housing Rehabilitation and

Residential Water/Waste Water System Assistance CDBG Program application, to set a tentative date of July 9, 2012, for the public hearing, and to ask County Attorney Tom Miner to draft a resolution was given on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Employment and Training

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a report for May 2012. The report was accepted as presented on a motion by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Soil and Water Conservation

Agricultural Environmental Management Planner Scott Alsworth filled in for Scott Torrey to present their monthly report which included: Round 18 is waiting for the Governor's approval to release the funds; locally there are eight projects currently in the works; working with DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) on seven outstanding permits; reiterated some information on the Snyder Lot sale; working with County Attorney on settling land trespass on the Travis Lot; and would like to start boundary marking this fall.

Economic Development/IDA

Request for Resolution Granting John Foels & John Margeson Signatory Authority with Rural Development

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels requested a resolution authorizing him and County Administrator John Margeson to sign documents in connection with the Rural Development application for the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) grant and release of funds for the Crossroads Water Project. Request for the resolution was granted on a motion by Legislator Healy and seconded by Legislator Graves. Legislator LaForge requested permission to abstain from the vote. Permission was granted on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. The motion to approve John Foels and John Margeson as signatories on Crossroads Water contracts with Rural Development was carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Update on Current Projects

Mr. Foels went on to say that all projects are moving along, although there are many, because of confidentiality issues, he cannot discuss at this time. He noted that his office continues to be very busy and signage at the Crossroads is up.

County Planner

County Planner Kier Dirlam introduced Summer Intern Joel Common of Belmont who is working on the Planning Archives for the next six weeks. Mr. Dirlam noted that Southern Tier West is meeting to wrap up its Storm Water Project, a meeting he plans to attend. He also noted that Southern Tier West is in the process of creating a program to teach erosion control methods which will be sited at a Department of Public Works complex in Little Valley. Mr. Dirlam noted the grants in progress, including Crossroads, the 417 Water Line project, USEDA (Economic Development Administration), ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission), and the New York State Consolidated Funding Applications grants which are due in mid-July. He said that the Department of State has not yet released the information on whether Allegany County had received an efficiency grant, although he knew some others had been already notified.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension representative Lynn Bliven presented an overview of activities for the past month, including consumer education on properly identifying and controlling the army worm and diagnostic services to landowners regarding insects in general, noting that if local efforts fail, the specimen can be sent to Cornell University for further testing. Other current projects include serving on Western New York Regional Sustainability and Planning Project Group for Agriculture and Forestry; Farmland Protection Plan; worked with Southern Tier West on regional branding funding through Ag and Markets to help with marketing fresh fruits and vegetables; and grazing trainings to help producers better utilize land and to combat invasive species (animals can be trained to eat weeds and bed straw). Legislator Sinclair asked Ms. Bliven to collaborate with Mr. Alsworth (Soil and Water Conservation) on farmland protection issues.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett updated the Committee on activities in her area, including the Fireball Run with Universal Studios, which will be live-streamed to 34 million people. Ms. Hanchett noted that there will be a stop for lunch somewhere in the County, but that site has not yet been disclosed. Allegany County also has a car in the race which will run from Ohio to Pennsylvania to Maine. The event will be turned into a series and Allegany County is eligible to participate every year. She also updated the group on the live music event featuring the "1812 Overture." The Houghton Symphonic Winds and Choir will present a music program on Sunday, September 23, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in the Angelica Town Circle. The program will feature patriotic and time period music from the Civil War era. There will also be various period readings and information as it relates to music and the Civil War. The program's finale will be a performance of the "1812 Overture" by the Houghton Symphonic Winds featuring cannon fire. The "1812 Overture" is celebrating its 200 year anniversary. Ms. Hanchett also told the group that she has met with a tour bus company regarding unique spots in Allegany County. The company chose Angelica Park Circle and will stop there three times. An Education Committee has been established and is looking at projects such as an annual business conference and internship programs to start. The Events Committee is busy.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JULY 18, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Bliven, D. Burdick, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, J. Foels, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, R. Sobock-Lynch, S. Torrey

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*; B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of June 20, 2012.

Soil & Water Conservation District-Scott Torrey

Contract Renewal

Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director Scott Torrey presented a request for a three-year contract extension between the Allegany County Soil & Water Conservation District and Allegany County, noting that the current contract will expire December 31, 2012. Over the course of the next three years, the District requests: 2013: \$130,000 (level funding since 2010); 2014: \$133,000 (2.3 percent increase); and 2015: \$136,000 (2.2 percent increase). Discussion included the value of the Soil & Water Conservation District and the good work that has been going on as a result of that entity's efforts. The request for the contract renewal was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Monthly Report

Mr. Torrey also reported that much of the activity occurring in his area currently is wrapping up grants and getting designs done before the construction season runs out. His area continues to work with some small farms. Mr. Torrey also noted that last week the State Legislature increased funding for the District from \$30,000 to \$60,000. The proposal is waiting for the Governor's signature. Mr. Torrey reiterated that the grants are currently taking most of the staff's time. Legislator Sinclair congratulated Mr. Torrey on becoming a certified agricultural planner.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Legislator Sinclair initiated discussion on economic development based on a request by Southern Tier West which will be compiling its annual CEDS document. Mr. Sinclair noted that the County's input has been requested, so he would like to hear Committee members' opinions on the directions and issues facing the economic development of Allegany County. Legislator Graves indicated that based on conversations with professionals in urban areas, the lack of major shopping and professional sporting venues may detract from the appeal for professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and teachers. Legislator Healy indicated that any investment should be made where the County would get the "biggest bang for the buck," serving the most citizens

with the most benefit. He also noted that he would like to see something new in the area. Perhaps, as the tourism and recreational industries will always be vital to the County, we could build on associated industries related to tourism and recreation. Mr. Healy went on to say that finding that which would fit with other industries might also be key. Additionally, he suggested encouraging current industries to bring other divisions in from outside the County if the company were thinking of relocating and encouraging further expansion of existing facilities. Legislator Graves indicated that some counties offer incentives such as tax breaks to encourage new business. Legislator Sinclair noted that the new facet of this year's CEDS will analyze what "fits." He also noted that "human capital" needs a supportive environment which will entice people to live here because of the quality of life Allegany County provides. Legislator Healy also noted that Allegany County possesses many assets, among them several institutions of higher education which are becoming known, not only nationally, but globally. Yet, he said, many of our local high school graduates choose to attend college outside the County. It was also noted that "technology transfer," that is, taking the research being done at our institutions of higher education, and turning that into viable jobs such as manufacturing, would be a noble goal. Additionally, it was stated that Allegany County is ideally suited for small-scale agriculture. Legislator LaForge suggested adding a position dedicated to agricultural economic development. He feels the County truly has to "sell" its agricultural industry. Mr. LaForge noted that despite tough economic times, this is something he feels is vital to Allegany County and would encourage investigating how this might be accomplished—whether through the County or Cooperative Extension. Mr. Sinclair requested Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative Lynn Bliven to investigate the possibility of such an additional position. Ms. Bliven went on to say that a large part of her responsibilities is precisely what Mr. LaForge describes. Legislator Pullen noted that in his capacity as a board member of the Allegany-Cattaraugus Cooperative Extension, he has seen first-hand the necessity of agricultural programming for local farmers. Cooperative Extension may not be the sole source of information, he said, but it is a vital one to local agriculturists. He also noted that due to budget constraints, coupled with need of services, new opportunities may arise for collaborative activities among Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties' Cooperative Extension Boards.

Legislator Curran promoted the idea of investigating the installation of sewer lines for Swain as being one of the two top priorities. That community is in the process of building 23 homes which would provide immediate potential payback, whereas, in his opinion, the Crossroads project could languish for any number of years. Mr. Curran feels that Swain is a more known commodity than the Crossroads. Legislator Sinclair agreed that Swain was an important issue in view of the County's economic development as are the Cuba Hospital's planned Retirement Community and the expansion planned at Wellsville Airport. He also indicated that each of these worthy projects would find support in Allegany County's future planning.

Legislator Sinclair, gratified by the liveliness of the discussion, noted that this type of exchange should be conducted more frequently to set the stage for moving forward.

Legislator Sinclair proposed that the two top projects that have been a priority, the development of the Crossroads Project and the Route 417 Waterline Extension in Wellsville, remain priorities 1 and 2 because we're on the cusp of getting funding for both of them. Mr. Dirlam noted that there is a manufacturing component in each of these projects which is a criterion for this funding. The proposal that these projects remain priorities 1 and 2 was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Employment & Training-Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch

Monthly Report

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch distributed her monthly report for June 2012, noting some high points: 52 youths, ages 16-21, are enrolled in the Summer Youth Employment Program, which keeps the office staff busy with site visits, supervision, time sheets, pay checks, etc. Nine people were enrolled in a six-week machining program offered by Alfred State at its Dresser-Rand facility. Many were interviewed by Dresser-Rand and two were offered immediate positions for \$18 per hour and will finish the course as a directed study. Ms. Lynch also noted that her office provided 827 services to Department of Social Services clients. This includes TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education), which determines at what grade level clients function in reading and math. Ms. Lynch noted that any DSS client receiving monetary assistance from the County is required to be tested.

Economic Development/IDA-John Foels

Updates on Current Projects—ION, Crossroads, Route 417 Waterline Extension

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels updated the group on the status of ION, noting that the project continues to move forward, albeit more slowly than anticipated. The Point of Presence is still on deck, and he noted he is involved in conversations with third party providers to distribute broadband in the County. As a follow-up to Legislator Curran's comments regarding Swain, Mr. Foels noted that Swain is a true success story. They are doing very well this summer with their planned events. The owners of the ski resort are investing in new snow-making equipment throughout the slopes, and there will soon be construction on about 25 new homes. He concurred with Legislator Curran that a new sewer line will be necessary should more construction follow. He reminded the group that a feasibility study had been done by Larson Engineering predicting a two million dollar price tag for a sewer system. Legislator Sinclair acknowledged the merit of that project and assured Mr. Curran that it will be among the County's planning priorities. Mr. Foels also noted that Allegany County's Route 417 Waterline Extension Project was short-listed by Southern Tier West and that he hoped to hear whether funding—up to a maximum of \$150,000 (of a \$900,000 cost)—would be forthcoming. Mr. Foels noted, when addressing the Crossroads Project, that Dave Eckerd and his partners had been in the area this week and that they are working diligently to bring in hotel, fuel, food, and convenience businesses to the site. It had recently been published in a local newspaper that an 88-room Holiday Inn Express would be the most likely candidate for that site. Mr. Foels went on to say that it is much easier for developers to obtain permits, etc. in rural areas than in urban areas, so this project should be attractive to developers.

County Planner-Kier Dirlam

County Planner Kier Dirlam reported that the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (seeking 20 percent of the funding) for the Route 417 Waterline Extension Project had been submitted. Also recently submitted was a grant application for 20 percent for the Crossroads Water System. Mr. Dirlam also reported on a Sustainability Cleaner Greener Communities Grant meeting that brought together 25 folks from a variety of organizations to discuss what each interested party can bring to the table. Mr. Dirlam said the attending consultants were amazed at the technology occurring in the local colleges in Allegany County. Another meeting/public forum is scheduled for July 26, 2012, at Moonwink's Restaurant in Cuba, from 6-8 p.m. Mr. Dirlam encouraged Committee members to attend. Legislator Sinclair requested that Mr. Dirlam send out a comprehensive e-mail to pertinent recipients with additional details. Chairman Crandall noted that in conversations with Southern Tier West Director Richard Zink, he was made aware that Allegany County is being noticed.

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Lynn Bliven

Due to time constraints, Legislator Sinclair requested that Ms. Bliven hold her report for next month. Ms. Bliven was agreeable, but also wanted to note that that evening (July 18) was the 4-H livestock sale and encouraged people to attend.

New Urbanism “Retreat” at Chautauqua—Oct. 12-14, 2012

A flyer publicizing a retreat at Chautauqua Institution in the Fall was distributed to Committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 15, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Baker, L. Bliven, D. Burdick, D. Fanton, G. Hanchett, J. Margeson, T. Miner, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of July 18, 2012.

Employment & Training Director-Reita Sobeck-Lynch

Request to Fill Senior Employment & Training Counselor Position

Employment & Training Director Reita Lynch requested permission to fill a Senior Employment & Training Counselor (Grade 17, Base) position which will become vacant if/when the incumbent accepts the position of Human Resources Specialist pending approval to fill that position at the Ways & Means Committee meeting of August 15, 2012. Additionally, the incumbent has requested a 30-day trial period which would allow her to return to Employment & Training if warranted. The position is one of two responsible for serving clients referred by the Department of Social Services. Although no one in the Office is eligible to apply for the position, there is a current Civil Service List with eligible candidates. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried **Refer to Ways & Means**

Request to Transfer Funds

Ms. Lynch also requested a resolution allowing the transfer of funds within the following appropriation accounts, noting that the transportation money was unused several years ago when there was a big Summer Employment Program out of BOCES:

<u>From Account No.</u>	<u>To Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CD16400.101 Admin. Regular Pay	CD16402.101 Adult Regular Pay	8,000
CD16400.101 Admin. Regular Pay	CD16406.101 D/W Regular Pay	6,000
CD16400.101 Admin. Regular Pay	CD16402.802 Adult Retirement	2,000
CD16400.101 Admin. Regular Pay	CD16406.802 D/W Retirement	3,000
CD16400.101 Admin. Regular Pay	CD16410.802 Youth Retirement	4,000
CD16794.474 TANF SYEP Contract	CD16795.101 TANF Part. Regular Pay	10,850
CD16794.475 TANF SYEP Trans	CD16794.101 TANF Regular Pay	9,000.
	TOTAL = \$42,850.	

The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Monthly Report

Ms. Lynch distributed, along with her monthly report, two Star Pathway Student Success Stories and the 2012 Local Plan for the Cattaraugus/Allegany WIB (Workforce Investment Board) for review. She noted that the Plan was posted on the Cattaraugus/Allegany WIB website and would be open for comment for the next 30 days. Ms. Lynch noted that the unemployment rate is higher than last month, and that front door traffic had increased, possibly due to an ad that had been placed in the newspaper encouraging people to use the E&T services. She also noted that an additional TABE (Testing of Adult Basic Education) session needed to be held to accommodate requests from Dresser Rand.

Agricultural Economic Development-Lynn Bliven, Dianne Baker

Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension for Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties Dianne Baker attended the meeting with Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative Lynn Bliven to discuss the potential for increasing the County's efforts in economic development activity in the agricultural field. It was noted that there is more activity occurring in the areas of biomass, preparation and processing of farm products, and prescribed grazing (using marginal lands for pasture) that can be enhanced if more time were spent developing markets and providers of these products. It was noted that Ms. Bliven spends some of her time in this arena, but with her background (Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from Cornell University, Master's Degree in Education from Cornell University, and a graduate certificate from Penn State in Community and Economic Development), she is the ideal candidate to carry out this activity. It was suggested that perhaps the proposed new position might assume many of those current duties of Ms. Bliven's that do not directly deal with economic development, such as residential, non-commercial applications in pest control, disease eradication, etc. so that Ms. Bliven might devote her efforts almost exclusively to agricultural economic development. This could be a more economical way to achieve both goals. Mr. Sinclair noted that a position might be brought in for about \$30-35,000, and that Cornell Cooperative Extension could cover the costs of benefits. Ms. Bliven noted that she has been working with the County Development Office to coordinate the efforts of both areas and to determine mission and vision statements. The group asked that Ms. Bliven prepare a more formalized plan with a mission statement, a vision statement, and measurable goals and objectives to be reviewed at the next meeting.

NYS Farm Bureau Response to Proposed Expanded Clean Water Act

Based on information regarding changes in the Clean Water Act, and a request to prepare a resolution to oppose such a change received from Timothy Bigham, Area Field Supervisor, New York Farm Bureau, the Committee agreed that the proposed changes to the Clean Water Act could have devastating effects on the local farmers and others. Among other regulations, dry creek beds and ditches would be regulated in the same manner as permanent streams and rivers. To this end, the Committee agreed to prepare a resolution to oppose the stated increase in regulations by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Soil & Water Conservation-Scott Torrey

Request to Accept Bid for Timber Sale

Soil & Water Conservation Director Scott Torrey requested approval of the timber sale from the Snyder Lot, Angelica. Three bids were received: from R.T. Chamberlain Logging & Trucking-\$10,741; from Michael Kaminski Logging-\$20,600; and from Ayers Earthmoving & Forestry Services, Inc.-\$12,800. The request to accept the high bid of \$20,600 from Michael Kaminski Logging was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Monthly Report

Mr. Torrey noted that his Department was continuing work on current projects in order to complete them before the construction season ends.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce—Gretchen Hanchett

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Director Gretchen Hanchett noted that the Chamber continues to stay busy with activities such as the first Manufacturing Council meeting, co-chaired by Legislator Fanton and Joe Hart. Ms. Hanchett noted that the Legislative breakfast is scheduled for Friday, September 14, 2012, and that invitations would be mailed during the current week. She noted that preparations are continuing for the “1812 Overture,” a live music event during the Angelica Civil War Weekend, Sunday, September 23, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in the Angelica Town Circle. This event will feature a barrage of cannon fire and patriotic and Civil War period music. There will also be various period readings and information as it relates to music and the Civil War. The program finally will feature a performance of the “1812 Overture” by the Houghton Symphonic Winds. The 1812 Overture is celebrating its 200-year anniversary. Ms. Hanchett also noted that the Chamber continues to work on the Fireball Run, a live, point-of-interest and destination-based expedition in America which will distribute posters of missing children (one child is represented by each Fireball Run Team) during the 15-city, 2,500-mile adventure to raise awareness and to aid in the recovery of missing and abducted children. Race participants will stop at Alfred State’s Wellsville campus for lunch, prepared by the Culinary Arts students, on Monday, September 24, 2012.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 27, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, P. Curran, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, C. Crandall (Absent: K. LaForge)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Ballengee, G. Benson, D. Burdick, D. Fanton, L. Gridley, Margeson, T. Miner, T. O'Grady, B. Riehle, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, N. Ungermann

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:19 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board Local Plan for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013

This meeting was specially called to approve the Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Local Plan for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, and to authorize Allegany County Board of Legislators Chairman Curt Crandall to sign the local plan when it is finalized. Legislator Sinclair noted that at the regular monthly meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee on August 15, Training & Employment Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch had distributed a copy of the plan, informing the group that it was posted on the WIB website and that it would be open for public comment for 30 days. Mr. Sinclair noted that essentially this report indicates how the WIB performed last year in meeting the benchmarks necessary to access all the federal programming and how they plan to meet the benchmarks that are set for this upcoming year. He also said that approximately one million federal and state dollars come to Employment & Training and those dollars flow through the Workforce Investment Board, noting that the County pays \$67,500 to get those monies into the County. Legislator Fanton stated that the County has a system in place that seems to work very well in getting people trained and employed and that we need to support this plan. Legislator Pullen echoed his comments, noting that "The Country works, society works when the people work. Our programming helps people qualify for jobs, allowing them to get and keep jobs. It appears that this is the direction that this program and Employment and Training are headed." Mr. Sinclair reminded the group that the plan is still in the final draft stages and that the public comment period is still open. That having been said, the Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board Local Plan for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, that the County had received to date, was approved, and Chairman Crandall was authorized to sign the final document on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried.

Prepare Resolution

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

Committee Members Present: F. Sinclair, D. Pullen, K. Graves, D. Healy, T. Hopkins, K. LaForge, C. Crandall (Absent: P. Curran)

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Bliven, D. Burdick, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, J. Luckey, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, T. Ross, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*; B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of August 15 & 27, 2012.

Allegany County as Lead Agency in SEQR Review for Broadband Project

Legislator Sinclair informed the group that Allegany County is applying for Connect New York Broadband Project funding. In order to move forward with the proposal, a lead agency must be named; he proposed that Allegany County be named as the lead agency as it is also the applicant. It was noted that the County Attorney would take any appropriate and necessary steps to ensure that all necessary notifications regarding Allegany County as the lead agency for this project are sent out. The proposal to declare Allegany County as the lead agency for the purpose of applying for the Connect New York Broadband Project funding was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Federation of Snowmobilers Contract

County Administrator John Margeson requested a resolution approving a contract between the County and the Allegany County Federation of Snowmobilers whereby the County acts as sponsor for applications for snowmobile trail development and maintenance assistance grants through the New York State Office of Parks, recreation and Historic Preservation. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Agricultural Economic Development

Legislator Sinclair briefly recapped the discussion over the past few meetings regarding a full-time position which could be dedicated to fostering the agricultural economic development of Allegany County. Conversations with Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Dianne Baker revealed that this would be a feasible endeavor and that Cooperative Extension already employed a person with the appropriate credentials for the job—Lynn Bliven. The current problem was that Ms. Bliven's time was often taken up with duties other than marketing and agricultural economic development. To resolve this issue, it was proposed that Cooperative Extension and Allegany County join forces and fund a new position that would assume many of Ms. Bliven's current responsibilities, allowing her the necessary time to focus on agricultural economic development. To that end, Ms. Bliven prepared a program strategy, "Cornell Cooperative Extension of Allegany County Agriculture Economic Development Program Strategy," for distribution. The proposal would require Allegany County to fund the position's salary at \$32,000 annually while Cooperative Extension would assume responsibility for that position's benefits and retirement costs. Discussion of deliverables and measurable outcomes

indicated that although it was unlikely that big changes would be immediately observable in income generation, it would be possible to measure the number of agencies the County would be working with, the number of start-up plans for agricultural businesses, the number of people employed in agriculture in the County, and a possible increase in sales of local agricultural products. The role of the Farm Bureau was also discussed. It was noted that the Farm Bureau is primarily a legislative lobbyist group and is not involved in products or markets. Legislator Sinclair asked Ms. Bliven to summarize her educational background, which she did, noting that she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from Cornell University, a Master's Degree in Education from Cornell University, and a graduate certificate from Penn State in Community and Economic Development. Chairman Crandall noted that this proposal seemed like a cost-efficient and proactive way to address the issue of agri-business. The proposal was approved and referred to Ways & Means on a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Departmental Reports

Employment & Training-Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch Request to Fill Position

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch requested approval to hire a Senior Clerk (AFSCME, Grade 7). The position is vacant because the incumbent accepted a position with another County department. The position is critical, according to Ms. Lynch, to ensure the efficiency of the Resource Center in greeting clients, scheduling appointments, and managing paperwork. The position is funded with 70 percent DSS contract dollars and 30 percent federal WIA dollars. The request to fill the position was approved on a motion by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Monthly Report

Ms. Lynch's report for August 2012 was distributed. Included in the set of documents were the Allegany County Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Summary (54 youths served: 46 successfully completed the program; four quit their SYEP jobs; three were fired; one remains in the program), the Allegany County SYEP List of Work Sites for 2012, and a SYEP case study. When asked about the County's unemployment figure, Ms. Lynch noted that the latest figures available are for July 2012, and that at that time the unemployment rate was 9.3 percent. Legislator Healy indicated that those figures apply solely to those who are receiving unemployment benefits. Ms. Lynch agreed that it is very difficult to capture figures for those whose unemployment benefits have expired or who have simply given up looking for work. It was also noted that Ms. Lynch is a member of the Educational Committee of the newly established Manufacturing Council, as well as a member of that larger group.

Economic Development/IDA—John Foels

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels was unable to attend the meeting.

County Planner-Kier Dirlam

County Planner Kier Dirlam distributed an article "Western New York Regional Economic Development Council Announces Priority Project Endorsements and Updates Public on Buffalo Billion," an update on projects that are being funded in the second round of NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo's Regional Council initiative. Several of the projects being funded are located in Allegany County, and Mr. Dirlam believes it is good news that Allegany County is getting a share of the funding. He also indicated that his office is currently involved in grant writing and project management.

County Historian-Craig Braack

County Historian Craig Braack was unable to attend the meeting.

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Lynn Bliven

Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative Lynn Bliven did not give a monthly report, but was heavily involved in the agricultural economic development discussion.

Soil & Water Conservation-Scott Torrey

Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director Scott Torrey updated the Committee on his department's activities, noting that they were busy with projects such as a 3.5 million gallon manure storage facility in West Almond, a concrete barnyard in Hume, and logging on the Snyder Lot. Several additional projects are slated to begin within the next three or four weeks. Mr. Torrey also said that his office was preparing for the next round of grant funding.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce—Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett was unable to attend the meeting.

Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. following a motion by Legislator LaForge, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 17, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, D. Burdick, C. Cavagna, A. Finnemore, G. Hanchett, T. Miner, B. Riehle; **Guests:** J. Kent, T. Kent; **Media:** B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*, B. Quinn, *Wellsville Daily Reporter*, R. Mangels, *WJQZ Radio*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the minutes of September 19, 2012.

Presentation on “Tough Mudder” Event by Kent Farms:

Tom and Joe Kent, from Kent Farms in Andover, presented information on a “Tough Mudder” event that they signed a contract to host in 2013. This internationally renowned event could bring 10,000 to 30,000 people into the area over a two-day period, drawing from an area within a two-hour radius, and a typical estimate of local economic impact is \$2 to \$5 million. The Kents are requesting assistance with planning and development to make the program a success. Joe Kent noted that their short-term goals include continued growth of their ATV Park business and broadening their horizons, but they are requesting help, possibly through grants, to build better facilities and signage to bring as many people into the area as they can. They’d like to be able to help local emergency services providers, as they depend on them when someone gets hurt. Advertising is an area where they fall short, due to the expense. When asked, Mr. Kent remarked that communication is great up there. Legislator Graves remarked that an event of this size needs to be planned and handled correctly, and possibly we’ll need to ask neighboring counties for help. We need this impetus, and we need this economic boost. He asked if the Kents could return to a future Committee meeting with an action agenda and punch list for what they need. We should involve Development Director John Foels and Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Director Gretchen Hanchett as part of the team to help facilitate the event. If we can take advantage of this opportunity, it would potentially impact every aspect of the economy.

Joe Kent spoke more specifically about the event. It is similar to Ironman competitions and is the toughest endurance race in the country. Originally designed to train the British Special Forces, it includes eight to twelve miles with twenty-five military-style obstacles through which teams of 10 have to get everyone through. The event is backed by the Wounded Warrior Foundation. The dates set for the 2013 event are July 27 and 28. The Kents signed a five-year contract, for possibly two events per year. Tom Kent commented that since there aren’t many hotels and there may be traffic problems with the back roads, they may look at Alfred State College for parking and even accommodations and bus participants in. The County may be able to make some of those connections. Lack of access to fuel and adequate sanitary facilities for large crowds were also noted.

Committee Chairman Fred Sinclair noted that Chamber Director Gretchen Hanchett, as part of the team that Legislator Graves suggested would help facilitate this, is also in charge of the Tourism Program and dollars from I Love New York, so that's another way the County might be involved. Ms. Hanchett commented that the Kent's ATV park facility is unique; there is no other place nearby. "Explore New York" is very excited to have an ATV Park in the area. We need to look at this event for its tourism benefits. Joe noted that more information and photos can be seen on the event's website at toughmudder.com.

Chairman Crandall commented that a number of years ago, the County was pressed regarding the use of ATVs on County property. Our position at the time was that it should be private enterprise. This is it - private enterprise, private investment. Where the County may be able to step in is to help facilitate this event through the Development Office, the Greater Allegany County Chamber, and possibly with consolidated funding applications. New York State said they wanted to create tourism, dollars, and jobs utilizing our unique areas. This is part of that. We have a good start in identifying the needs, such as infrastructure, sanitary facilities, cabins, and signage to see what the County can help find funding for to help with this.

A motion was made by Chairman Crandall, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to direct the Development Office, the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Group, the Chamber, and the Health Department to work with the Kents in any way they can to help fulfill the needs they have to facilitate hosting the 2013 Tough Mudder event.

Development of a NYS Dairy Industry Plan

Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair distributed copies of Chenango County's Resolution No. 168-12, "Requesting Governor Cuomo to Formulate a Strategic Dairy Industry Plan for the State of New York," prior to the meeting. Legislator Theodore Hopkins, who is a member of the NYSAC Task Force on Agriculture, suggested the Committee and the Board consider supporting this issue. Mr. Hopkins passed out copies of a proposed resolution. The dairy industry is expanding with many new niche businesses. If there's going to be expansion in our farms, we need to protect them against the ups and downs in supply and demand. Mr. Hopkins spoke about Chenango County's resolution and a study done in Wisconsin. Wisconsin developed a plan in 2004, and they increased their production and their price for milk. Wisconsin has 90 licensed processing plants; New York only has 9. They have twice as many cows, but still that's a big difference. They get a premium for their milk over what we get. We should be getting a better price, but we don't, because we don't have the competition in processing. Wisconsin has created an atmosphere to expand, not only the processing, but the production of milk by changing some regulations and establishing initiatives and tax incentives. Their production has gone up. We have the potential to nearly double our cow numbers. The problem is that there is no plan. Wisconsin has a plan, and it is working. New York should do the study and prepare a plan; look at what's been done, see what fits, and find what some of the stumbling points are in New York State that are holding back production. The proposed resolution also calls for the creation of a position in Ag & Markets to deal with trying to get through the regulatory process and push for incentives to develop new processing plants. This person needs to work with the processing plants and the farmers; we have to have coordination. Wisconsin is part of our competition, and they show that with a plan, you can increase the dairy industry; that helps everyone and strengthens the whole economy. Mr. Sinclair noted that this fits with the Western New York Regional Economic Development planning, and it's a good move for us to support this type of planning at the state and regional level.

Chairman Crandall questioned if this issue has been discussed on the NYSAC Agriculture Task Force, and if there are other dairy-related counties getting behind it. Legislator

Hopkins noted that the Wisconsin topic hasn't been discussed, but the issue is starting to boil up, and he feels that our resolution should be referred on to InterCounty and the January meeting of NYSAC. Governor Cuomo is open to this issue, and the time is right also. Chairman Crandall remarked that when the Governor's Office put together the ten Economic Development Councils, in the Western New York one, and most of them across New York, agriculture didn't get a lot of play. Now it's the number one industry in New York and recognized as a real economic development driver. Now is the time to push forward.

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried to forward Mr. Hopkins' outline resolution to the County Attorney to prepare a resolution for Allegany County to support the development of a dairy industry strategic plan for New York State. Prepare Resolution.

Departmental

Reports

Employment and Training:

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch was unable to attend, but her report was submitted ahead of time and reviewed. The following requests were submitted:

Ms. Lynch requested the acceptance and appropriation of additional TANF Summer Youth Employment Program funding in the amount of \$11,800. The Employment and Training Center budgeted \$114,019 for 2012, and they actually received \$125,819. The \$11,800 in additional funding should be appropriated as follows:

<u>Appropriations:</u>		
CD16794.803	(TANF Staff FICA)	\$ 200
CD16794.804	(TANF Staff W/C)	225
CD16794.806	(TANF Staff Hosp/Med. Insurance)	325
CD16795.101	(TANF Part. Regular Pay)	9,825
CD16795.803	(TANF Part. FICA)	1,125
CD16795.804	(TANF Part. W/C)	<u>100</u>
		\$11,800
<u>Revenues:</u>		
CD16794.4701.12	(TANF SYEP)	\$11,800

A motion was made by Legislator Pullen, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried to approve the request. Refer to Ways and Means

Ms. Lynch also requested approval for the transfer of \$4,300 between appropriation accounts as follows:

<u>From Account No.</u>	<u>To Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CD16794.101 TANF Regular Pay	CD16794.802 TANF Retirement	\$ 1,675
CD16794.201 TANF Office Equipment	CD16794.802 TANF Retirement	1,000
CD16794.402 TANF Staff Mileage	CD16794.802 TANF Retirement	200
CD16794.413 TANF Personal Prop.	CD16794.802 TANF Retirement	50
CD16794.805 TANF Disability	CD16794.802 TANF Retirement	150
CD16794.401 TANF Postage	CD16795.804 TANF Part. W/C	100
CD16794.408 TANF General Supplies	CD16795.804 TANF Part. W/C	525
CD16794.414 TANF Real Property	CD16795.804 TANF Part. W/C	300
CD16794.416 TANF Telephone	CD16795.804 TANF Part. W/C	<u>300</u>

Total \$4,300

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the request. Refer to Ways and Means

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Horticulture Community Educator Colleen Cavagna distributed an Ag report and updated the Committee on Master Gardener programming. Highlights included horticulture lessons in the garden; hands-on gardening; children's programming during the summer including gardening, cheese making, and gourd decorating; radio program; an online horticulture course on natural enemies of insect pests; the Master Gardener helpline, which was swamped during the summer; planning a new Master Gardener training course; group presentations; and newspaper articles.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce:

Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett reported that the new Hunting and Fishing brochure, updated with 2013 information, is being printed and will be available next month.

The Fireball Run was a huge success for the County. Residents were excited about the cars coming through, and all the stops went well. It is expected that a lot of good will come out of it. Connections were made with other state Tourism Directors. Another connection that came out of it is that the Executive Producer for Universal Studios is setting up a youtube show with Alfred State students who auditioned to paint and restore his Rolls Royce. Updates will be shown on the procedure, and he's hoping the vehicle will be revealed at the Barrett-Jackson event in Scottsdale, which would also put the County on the map. The County is planning to be in the Fireball Run again next year to continue relationships and bring people into the County. The Allegany County drivers are doing presentations at area schools, and promotion for the next event will be even better.

The Manufacturing Conference Council will be meeting October 23 at 10 a.m. in Alfred. They are pulling together manufacturers to look at the strategic plan, see what they're looking at and prioritizing, in order to see what direction they're going. Congressman Reed will be there. He's interested in the direction we're going in manufacturing in Allegany County, but we're also part of the regional focus. Legislators are welcome to attend. This is a good opportunity to see how we can strengthen our manufacturing and to look at what we can bring in.

The Education Committee is looking at doing great things. Judy Hopkins chairs that committee, and is planning an annual conference for businesses in collaboration with Career Day at Alfred State on April 10. The keynote speaker will be talking about public relations and advertising on a low budget, and there will be other workshops also.

Ms. Hanchett requested a resolution authorizing the Planning and Economic Development Committee, of the Allegany County Board of Legislators, to act as the Tourism Promotion Agency and apply for state funds up to \$175,000 for tourism promotion purposes. The requested resolution should also include:

1. That if state funding is approved, the Tourism Promotion Agency will submit the grant agreement to the Board of Legislators for approval and appropriation of funds.
2. The Clerk of the Board will send a certified copy of the resolution to the New York State Commissioner of Economic Development.

It was noted that these are the I Love NY dollars, and the application is for the same amount as in the past.

A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Pullen, and carried to approve the request. Refer to Ways & Means

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m. following a motion made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Finnemore, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 21, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Bliven, D. Burdick, R. Christman, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, J. Foels, G. Hanchett, G. Kelly, B. Loucks, J. Margeson, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of October 17, 2012.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Structure and Administration

Legislator Sinclair updated the Committee on the status of the County's arrangement with Cattaraugus County regarding the guidance and direction of the proposed new position. Legislator Sinclair said that he had spoken to Cooperative Extension Executive Director Dianne Baker, noting that Allegany County will have its own Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee which will guide its agricultural program. However, the overall administration of Cooperative Extension will continue to be shared. The three-county (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua) arrangement for top leadership will remain in place. Cattaraugus County is attempting to get funding back in its budget for agriculture; however, if an agriculture program comes back at all, it will be in a limited fashion whereby producers gain access to expertise in a 10-county area by a team of people put together by Cornell University, not one dedicated county employee. This arrangement would provide some semblance of service (advice and information). Allegany County Cooperative Extension still moving forward with the hiring of a new position which will work in Allegany County, and the majority of Lynn's (Bliven) time will be more keenly focused on agricultural economic development. Ms. Bliven indicated that currently representation on the full board includes six at-large members and legislative reps: two members from each of the three committees (Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Science, and 4-H). The original design of these committees, when the two counties merged the service, was that there would be equal representation from each county. Legislator Pullen noted that the Cattaraugus County Cooperative Extension only supports 4-H, so that there is limited access to information regarding insect/disease diagnostics, pesticide issues, gardening questions, etc. because it doesn't have the agricultural staff. Mr. Pullen also noted that 2012 has been difficult and painful adjustment for Catt County; he feels that Allegany County is following a more prudent route looking at growth, while Cattaraugus County is looking at retrenchment. In terms of agriculture, Cattaraugus County went from a fully staffed agricultural program to no program. Mr. Pullen added that he could never support such retrenchment as agriculture is so important to this County. Allegany County can certainly benefit from the lessons learned as a result of Cattaraugus County's difficulties.

**Employment & Training-Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch
Monthly Report**

Employment & Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch presented her report for October 2012, noting some highlights, including: 20 DSS customers found employment, even though at minimum wage; 11 students were funded with WIA dollars to attend machining classes offered by Alfred State at its Dresser Rand facility; 18 others received financial assistance for training as nursing assistants, dental assistant, CDL-A & B, and machining. Employment & Training is working with the local BOCES in order to expend the remaining DSS funding which must be used by December 31, 2012. Ms. Lynch also noted that Employment & Training had initiated its Breakfast Club series where local business people speak to job seekers. Manor Hills presented in October, and ACCORD, Allegany County Human Resources, and Lufkin are scheduled for the next three months. Ms. Lynch noted that the unemployment rate has fallen; however, all emergency and extended unemployment compensation will expire at the end of the calendar year. Ms. Lynch also noted that the WIB hosted a meeting with Congressman Reed's Legislative Assistant, Laura Ringdahl, regarding the need for continued/additional funding. Finally, Ms. Lynch also noted that her office is now fully staffed thanks to a new Senior Employment & Training Counselor (Heather Garish) and a new Senior Account Clerk (Kim Bolander).

County Planner-Kier Dirlam **Monthly Report**

County Planner Kier Dirlam informed the group that the Planning Board meeting scheduled for this evening had been cancelled. He also said that the Board was down a member and if any Committee member knew of a good candidate from the Clarksville, Genesee, Bolivar areas, please let him know. Mr. Dirlam noted that the Comprehensive Plan is being edited at this time with new maps and data. The 417 Water Project has been verbally approved for ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) and NYS Development Council funding. Allegany County had also submitted a proposal for EDA (Economic Development Administration) funding, but the proposal was returned with a request for additional information, so that possibility is still "live." Mr. Dirlam also said that he had met with a consultant who works with NYSEDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) which has a lot of programs it can offer to towns and villages, not-for-profits, and possibly small businesses to determine how to get those services/programs into Allegany County. He told the group that the Sustainability Project is coming to a close and he had received a draft of the plan, noting that there were approximately 150 projects in five counties and that 10-12 of those projects were in Allegany County. Mr. Dirlam also met with Wayne Goodman, a representative from the Landmark Society of Western New York, and toured him around the County to historic districts and historic sites. Mr. Goodman saw a lot of potential in these areas.

County Historian—Craig Braack

County Historian Craig Braack, who was unable to attend the meeting, sent a statement which Mr. Sinclair read to the group. In part, it said, that he is 95 percent moved into his new space and he hoped that by the end of next week, the old building would no longer need its utilities. He also thanked the DPW folks for all their help.

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Lynne Bliven **Monthly Report**

Cooperative Extension Representative Lynne Bliven updated the Committee on current projects. Ms. Bliven reported that she served on the Agriculture and Forestry Group of the Western New York Sustainability Project and also submitted projects to foster growth in farming. In October, she noted, Cornell Cooperative Extension hosted a beef quality assurance program

to help producers understand their role in processing foods. Fourteen producers attended. Ms. Bliven is working with Mike Baker, a beef specialist, on how to identify tools for farmers to use to increase the quality of the animals they produce. She is currently in the middle of a five-week beginning farming training program. Six prospective producers are attending: two dedicated to vegetable production; three dedicated to livestock production; and one interested in both types of production. Cooperative Extension continues to work with the Allegany County Harvest Market Cooperative to help locals sell their products. Several schools have indicated a desire to use local products in their cafeterias, so Cooperative Extension has been matching local producers with specific schools. Ms. Bliven has been in conversation with Director Dianne Baker to develop the job description for the new hire, noting there are certain protocols that need to be followed to develop that description.

Soil & Water Conservation-Scott Torrey

Monthly Report

Soil and Water Conservation Executive Director Scott Torrey reported the following: Round 19 grant applications are due December 10; they are applying in the following watersheds: Cryder-Town of Independence; Canacadea Creek-Towns of Almond and Alfred; and Cold Creek-Towns of Centerville and Hume. AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) Year 8 activities include documentation of Upper Susquehanna farm changes for Upper Susquehanna Coalition for EPA TMDL (total maximum daily load) requirements; submission of Year 8 Interim Report; completion of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for Cherry View Farm in Centerville, and assistance with a grazing system at Alfred State. Other projects include wrapping up concrete work; completed design work for the next river stabilization project in Belfast; and signed contracts for State Fiscal Years 2010-11 and 2011-12 for a total of \$76,500 which will be used during the 2013 construction season. Additionally, the group is exploring options to correct flooding at a house in Hume during Hurricane Sandy and working with Alma Rod and Gun Club on repair of a dam spillway on Alma Pond. The Snyder Lot cutting and cleanup have been completed; the Dixon Lot cutting is in its final stages; and the Weir Lot is being prepared for cutting in 2013 (hardwood and softwood). When hunting season is over, boundary lines painting will begin. Leonard Preston, PE, has accepted the position of Watershed Technician and began his duties November 19. Legislator Sinclair noted that Mr. Torrey had recently earned certification as a planner.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett

Monthly Report

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett reported that the hunting and fishing brochure has been printed; she distributed copies to the group. She noted that she was pleased with the ad for Kent Farms Tall Pines ATV Park that was included. Ms. Hanchett indicated that Joe Kent would be attending the Eastern Sports Outdoor Show and that would include some promotion for the ATV Park. The Office is working on a matching funds grant; the first part has been submitted; the second part is due in early December. She has received a letter estimating funds of \$58,135 (about \$20,000 more than received last year in matching funds for the 2013 Tourism Matching Funds Grant). The Celebrate Allegany County project went off very well. Approximately 450 students from Alfred State, Alfred University, and Houghton College worked on approximately 55 different volunteer service projects through the Leadership Allegany Program. Ms. Hanchett thanked Legislator Curran for the tee shirts he provided for the project. The Ambassador Program dovetails nicely with the Governor's Pathways to Heritage initiative. The Office is also working on a regional program on Amish trails in conjunction with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. The next

Manufacturing Council meeting will be held December 11. The program is going well, but would like to see more participation. Ms. Hanchett noted that “Joe Hart has been out talking to some educational programs and pulling in some initiatives that we will be working with the students along with manufacturing.”

Economic Development/IDA—John Foels

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels noted that the broadband initiative is going strong. The legislature-driven grant application is in Albany; only two applications originated in Western New York. The state had postponed decision announcements because of Hurricane Sandy. However, the funding for broadband initiative is still in place, but Albany needs to address some other issues before Allegany County gets any official word. He also reported that Swain is alive and well and has installed new snowmaking equipment on the entire mountain. He added that the residential development projects are going forward. Additionally, Lufkin-RMT expects to have its facility near the airport running by the end of the year and expects to double its workforce. The Crossroads project has been delayed because of the economy. He indicated that the financing must be just right and that the County does not want to “settle.” When asked about the truck stop, Mr. Foels said there are confidentiality issues that perhaps could only be answered in executive session. What he could reveal is that the contract is in place, and it has been extended, but he did not know the final date. He did indicate that a significant non-refundable deposit has been made, but he wants the best possible outcome for that project and is willing to wait because the County has a responsibility to its citizens to do this right. That’s as much as he could reveal at this time. Mr. Foels was also asked about the status of the proposed Walmart in Wellsville. He responded that it is not a County project and that he could not comment. However, he did note that getting a Walmart in place can be a lengthy process. He also noted that the issue of a Wellsville Walmart is not “off” the table.

Good of the Order

Motion to go into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee at 12 p.m. by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Motion to leave executive session at 12:25 p.m. by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 19, 2012**

**** NOT APPROVED ****

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

Others Present: M. Alger, L. Bliven, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, J. Foels, G. Hanchett, T. Miner, B. Riehle, C. Santora, R. Sobeck-Lynch, S. Torrey

Media Present: B. Clark, *Olean Times Herald*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman Frederick Sinclair.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of November 21, 2012.

Appointments to Fish & Wildlife Management Board

Chairman of the Board Curt Crandall plans to re-appoint the following as members of the Fish & Wildlife Management Board for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2013, and expiring December 31, 2014, subject to confirmation by the Board.

- Phillip May, Wellsville, Landowner Representative Member
- Richard "Butch" Lorow, Almond, Alternate Landowner Representative Member

The appointments were approved on a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Re-appointment to Soil & Water Conservation District Board

The County Farm Bureau requests that the Board consider re-appointing Phillip May, Wellsville, as the County Farm Bureau appointee on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2013, and expiring December 31, 2015. The Soil & Water Conservation District Board requests the Board to consider reappointing Legislator Theodore L. Hopkins, Fillmore, and Legislator Douglas D. Burdick, Alfred Station, as Legislative Members of the Soil & Water Conservation District Board for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2013, and expiring December 31, 2013. The appointments were approved on a motion by Legislator Sinclair, seconded by Legislator Graves, and carried.

Prepare Resolution

Appointments to the Planning Board

The Chairman of the Board Curt Crandall plans to appoint William Emrick, Scio, and re-appoint Benjamin Lipscomb, Fillmore; Bryan D. Fanton, Wellsville, and Lee Gridley, Wellsville, to the Allegany County Planning Board for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2013, and expiring December 31, 2015, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. Additionally, the Chairman plans to appoint Guy R. James, Scio, Public Works Superintendent as an *ex-officio* member, and re-appoint Terri L. Ross, Angelica, County Treasurer, and Legislator Theodore L. Hopkins, Fillmore, Ways & Means Committee Chairman, as *ex-officio* members, for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2013, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. The appointments were approved on a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Departmental Reports:

Employment & Training

Employment & Training Director Reita Lynch distributed her monthly report for November 2012, noting that front door traffic decreased by 100 from the previous month. However, she noted, the Office was closed for four days because of holidays. Other highlights included 11 people graduated from the Alfred State 168-hour machining training course at Dresser Rand. Two of the 11 have been hired by Alstom. A meeting has been scheduled with the remaining nine to assist them with the job search. Two new business contacts were made in November: Tim Horton's in Olean, and the Pump Station Processing in Wellsville. Two E&T clients are employed at the latter. Sixty-two TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) exams were administered in November. Ms. Lynch confirmed that 300 Allegany County people would lose unemployment benefits at the end of the month. She also indicated that 33 people lost their jobs at Dal-Tile in Olean; 12 had visited the E&T office thus far.

Economic Development/IDA

Economic Development/IDA Director John Foels talked to the group about the amazing progress Lufkin has made with its building at the airport, noting the company is in the final phase of construction and that the transition (moving people and equipment) is underway. He also noted that Lufkin predicts measurable increases in its number of employees. Mr. Foels also indicated that the relationship between Allegany County and Empire State Development has never been stronger. Sam Hoyt and Christina Orsi, both of Empire State Development, have visited the County several times recently, and although no details are available for "publication," Mr. Foels indicates that much progress is being made. Mr. Foels also indicated that he expected to receive an announcement regarding the "Buffalo Billion" (although he noted the name is a misnomer, seeing as all of Western New York is eligible) informing him of upcoming grant opportunities. When asked for a Crossroads update, Mr. Foels said that the project has been delayed by tough financial times although the agents have some financing in hand. Additionally, he said, all the components (hospitality, travel, lodging) are lined up, waiting for the financing to be settled. He also noted that the Crossroads project would offer the County income from bed tax, sales tax, and property tax in addition to providing employment to residents.

County Planner

County Planner Kier Dirlam informed the Committee that the Planning Board was meeting that evening and that the annual dinner would be held January 16, 2013, at the Wellsville Country Club. Wayne Goodman, a representative from the Landmark Society of Western New York, whom Mr. Dirlam toured around the County to historic sites last month will be the guest speaker. Mr. Dirlam noted that representatives from the ongoing NYS DOT project, "Complete Streets," had met with the Village of Belmont Board and looked at how pedestrian traffic on Route 19 (Schuyler Street) is impacted by speed and traffic patterns. A brief report was completed noting what can be done over the next decade. The biggest problem, it was noted, occurs in front of Nicholson Pharmacy because cars do not slow down in the populated areas. Mr. Dirlam also noted that Alfred, Angelica, Wellsville, and other County sites had been reviewed as well. Mr. Dirlam also indicated that Canaseraga is actively working on a comprehensive plan and that 40 people are participating in a number of work groups. The group has applied to Landmark Society for grant funding for assistance with some of the downtown buildings. The County Comprehensive Plan is still under review. The first edited edition (a "rough" draft per Mr. Dirlam) will be available for the Review Committee in January. He is hoping for a more polished draft to be available in March.

County Historian

County Historian Craig Braack was unable to attend the meeting as he and a work crew were moving files while the weather held. He did send the message that he is about 90 percent completed with the move and that he is pleased with his new space.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative Lynne Bliven told the group that the new staff position job descriptions had been submitted to Cornell for approval. She is hoping to begin the search process soon after the first of the year. She also noted that some funding had been restored to Cattaraugus County so there would be two community educator positions—one for Allegany County and one for Catt County. She also introduced the Committee to “EDEN,” (Extension Disaster Education Network-www.EDEN.lsu.edu) whose goal is to reduce the impact of disaster through education. She explained that this website serves as a resource for various types of disasters. She also said that a new farm disaster preparedness certificate program class would begin in February. This program instructs on the handling and storage of chemicals and how to react to emergencies, among other issues. Many insurance companies have helped develop this program. Farmers who participate could get a 10 percent discount on certain aspects of their insurance, she said. Ms. Bliven also distributed copies of the Cornell Vegetable Team Year in Review brochure. Legislator Sinclair took the opportunity to inform the Committee that Legislators had also received, in their mailboxes, a copy of the 2011 Organic Production Survey.

Soil & Water Conservation

Soil & Water Conservation District Director Scott Torrey updated the Committee on activities of November 2012, which included applying for Round 19 grant money for the following: Cryder Creek, two farms, for \$256,675; Canacadea Creek, two farms, for \$107,025; and Cold Cree, three farms, for \$153,900, for a total request of \$517,600. His Office is also writing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for four farms and completing survey work for several upcoming projects and permit applications. Mr. Torrey also noted that Scott Alsworth had a scheduled meeting that day with Wagner Timber at the Dixon Lot to go over the final cleanup, adding that the cleanup would probably not be finished until next year due to the wetness.

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett addressed the group noting that she has been pleased with the progress of the Manufacturing Council meetings. It provides a nice forum for networking for manufacturers and educators. She also said that Alfred State and BOCES are forming new program called Project Lead the Way and New Visions to support manufacturing and highlight internship opportunities. Additionally, she said that The Lodge is serving as the host site for a visiting sportswriter. Several representatives from Allegany County sporting activities will be there to talk with the writer about the opportunities for sportsmen in the County. The following day, the writer will tour a variety of County locales. The magazine, *Sports & Leisure*, publishes in Buffalo, Rochester, and Canada. Ms. Hanchett noted that her office is applying for funds to promote occupational health and safety in the workplace through training through the Hazard Abatement Board.

Good of the Order

Legislator Sinclair informed the group that Professor Xuesong Li of China, currently a visiting professor at the Alfred University Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering and celebrated

Chinese renewable energy expert, is doing research into retrofitting farms and houses for renewable energy. He has created a questionnaire to ascertain the needs of such a project.

Executive Session

A motion was made to go into executive session at 11:48 a.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular employee by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator LaForge, and carried. A motion to leave executive session was made at 12:14 p.m. by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Graves, seconded by Legislator Sinclair, and carried

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Santora, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators