

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
January 17, 2018

ALLEGANY COUNTY
BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Members Present: D. Root, G. Barnes, J. Burdick, P. Curran, W. Dibble, D. Healy, J. Hopkins, J. Ricci, C. Crandall

Others Present: L. Ballengee, T. Boyde, R. Christman, C. Clark, D. Decker, K. Dirlam, K. Graves, G. Hanchett, B. Harris, S. Havey, K. Hollis, R. Hollis, K. Hooker, C. Knapp, R. Lynch, B. Riehle, T. Ross, P. Stockin, M. Washer

Media Present: K. Kellogg - *Olean Times Herald*, C. Potter – *Wellsville Daily Reporter*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chair Debra Root.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes for December 20, 2017.

Economic Development/Industrial Development Agency

Allegany County Economic and Industrial Development Agency Executive Director Craig Clark attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Dr. Clark stated there is a public meeting set with the master planner regarding the Crossroads development on January 27, 2018, at the Crossroads Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Clark stated that the donation of the GE Lufkin facility is final, and the Allegany County Industrial Development Agency owns the facility as of December 29, 2017. Dr. Clark announced that PM Research has signed a long-term lease and plans to expand their business in the facility. Legislator Healy asked if they will be receiving a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). Dr. Clark stated there is a PILOT application in place, and a public hearing has been set for February 22, 2018.

Dr. Clark stated that the Bioenergy Development and Commercialization Center (BDCC) now has state and federal funding of \$12.4 million required for the project. The Governor announced the remaining state funding of \$6.6 million on January 3, 2018. Dr. Clark indicated that they continue to meet and work with Siemens, and are building a partnership regarding the process control and other industry related support.

Dr. Clark stated that the ARC has approved funding for the startup of an Angel Fund in the Southern Tier area and meetings will begin this month.

Dr. Clark stated that Site Selectors have been to the County twice and are now assisting with how to better market the County. Legislator Decker asked if Site Selectors is a group or one individual. Dr. Clark stated it's a national group of 44 individuals, and he has met with two, one of which is from Buffalo, NY, so is familiar with our area.

Legislator Graves stated there are rumors that Stouffers moved their business to Pennsylvania because of the minimum wage increase and asked for Dr. Clark's opinion. Dr. Clark stated he heard second hand that they were looking to consolidate, and the minimum wage increase helped make their final decision to do so.

Dr. Clark stated that we have been very successful this past year; however, from this point forward it depends on having our ambassadors and public on board, adding we need to get away from the bad press about Allegany County, and speak out about why we're a good place to live and bring new business in. Committee Chair Root stated that we need to acknowledge these great things we are accomplishing for our County.

Planning Director, Kier Dirlam

Planning Director Kier Dirlam attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Mr. Dirlam provided some background to his department for the new Legislators. Mr. Dirlam stated the Planning Board dinner will be held on January 17, 2018, at the Off Duty club in Belmont, NY. Cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m., and Dr. Craig Clark will be the featured speaker. Mr. Dirlam stated they have been working with their GIS (Geographic Information System) consultant to develop a methodology to review the census address data that will be arriving in February. Mr. Dirlam stated they are beginning to prepare for the Census, adding that the County chose not to participate in the last Census; therefore, our data has not been looked at since 1989. Mr. Dirlam expressed concern because these numbers will stay with us until 2032.

Tourism

Greater Allegany Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hanchett stated they continue to work with local businesses to put together travel packages that will make visiting Allegany County easier for our visitors. Ms. Hanchett stated they are working with Genesee Rivers Wild Group on the development of a map that will highlight points to visit within the County, and it will be mobile responsive. Ms. Hanchett stated the Watchful Wildlife Program continues to move forward with developing a committee, and they are also looking to bring a consultant in to assist in moving this project forward. Committee Chair Root asked if these consultants specialize in these types of projects. Ms. Hanchett stated, yes, and it is still in the very early stages, and any suggestions are welcomed. Ms. Hanchett announced the following upcoming events:

- Tri-State Outdoor Expo Regional show will be January 25 to January 28 in Pittsburgh.
- The Great American Outdoor NYS Tourism show will be February 3 to February 5 in Harrisburg.
- On Thursday, February 15, 2018, the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Allegany County will hold a Cyber Security Tips for Small Businesses workshop. The workshop will be held at the Crossroads Center from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and admission is free.
- Thursday, February 15, 2018, will be the Annual Open House/Community Night open to parents of career and technical students as well as the general public. This event will be held at the BOCES Career and Technical Center Campus in Belmont from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any local business that would like to set up a table for this event should contact Tammy Graf at Tammy_Graf@caboces.org.
- On Thursday, February 22, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman, LLP will be coming to the County to discuss family business planning strategies that can help to ensure successful business succession from generation to generation. This event will be held at the Crossroads Center and admission is free.

Employment and Training

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Lynch stated December was quiet, and they will not receive unemployment rates for another week. Ms. Lynch stated that two Veterans used their service in December which is low; however, they do have a Veterans representative in their office every Tuesday. Ms. Lynch stated they have had five referrals for their Work Experience Program, and the Cuba Patriot recently featured a nice article outlining the program. Ms. Lynch noted that the Census is very important for their department because their funding is based on our population.

Southern Tier Extension Railroad Appointment

Chairman Crandall plans to appoint Brooke Harris of Alfred, NY, to fill a three-year term on the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, and Steuben Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority commencing January 2, 2018, and expiring August 27, 2020. A motion was made by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve this appointment.

Prepare Resolution**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Barnes, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Washer, Confidential Secretary to Clerk of the Board
Allegany County Board of Legislators