

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
May 15, 2019

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

Others Present: T. Boyde, J. Budinger, D. Decker, M. Denhoff, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, K. Graves, L. Gridley, B. Harris, S. Havey, G. James, C. Knapp, R. Lynch, B. Riehle, T. Ross, P. Stockin, M. Washer

Media Present: C. Potter – *The Spectator*, C. Dutton – *Cuba Patriot*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:22 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Chair Debra Root.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Ricci, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of April 17, 2019.

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Legislator Hopkins, and carried to approve the Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes of May 1, 2019.

TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gretchen Hanchett attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Hanchett noted they continue to work on the “25 Allegany County Must-Dos.”

Travel Guide

Ms. Hanchett stated they have started the process for the 2020 travel guide which will also include featured stories about Allegany County.

Tourism Trailer

Ms. Hanchett stated the new tourism trailer has been picked up from Erie, PA, and they are working with a graphic designer to incorporate the County’s three “Purple Cows” into the wrap design. Ms. Hanchett hopes to have the trailer ready for the June 1 Celtic Festival.

SPCA Ribbon Cutting

Ms. Hanchett stated there will be a grand opening and ribbon cutting event for the Allegany County SPCA on Saturday, June 1.

Celtic Festival

Ms. Hanchett stated the Cuba Celtic Festival will be held Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Visitor Engagement Academy

Ms. Hanchett stated that recommendations and corrections from their field test were sent to the visitor’s engagement company to be updated, and they are hopeful to launch by end of June. Legislator Hopkins asked what company Ms. Hanchett is referring to when she discusses Visitor Engagement. Ms. Hanchett stated it is A2D Engagement Journey out of Colorado. Legislator Hopkins asked what kind of format this will be. Ms. Hanchett stated it will mostly be online with seven modules, adding the most important aspect of this will be learning how to

engage with someone when they come into our County. Committee Chair Root asked if this program will be available on the website for anyone in the County. Ms. Hanchett stated, yes, and they are also going to have it advertised anywhere they can. Committee Chair Root asked if they will be tracking numbers of who is taking the course. Ms. Hanchett stated the app they will be using tracks who is taking it, how far into the modules they get, and also puts them on a mailing list for future information.

Top Priorities

Committee Chair Root asked Ms. Hanchett what her top two priorities are in the coming months. Ms. Hanchett stated her upcoming events, Travel Writers project, 25 Allegany County Must-Dos, as well as making sure their digital marketing continues. Committee Chair Root indicated she would like Ms. Hanchett to focus on two priorities as Tourism is busy with a lot going on.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Allegany County Economic and Industrial Development Agency Executive Director Craig Clark was unable to attend the meeting but submitted his monthly report to the committee for review. Dr. Clark is attending the Appalachian Regional Commission conference on opioid and reinstating workforce development in Knoxville. Mr. Dirlam noted that Dr. Clark is one of two people representing New York State.

Waterline Project

Mr. Dirlam stated the IDA Board is working with the low bidder to get the waterline construction started as soon as possible, and they expect to see work begin when the weather permits.

Alle-Catt Wind Project

Mr. Dirlam stated they received a letter from the state indicating the Alle-Catt Wind Project application materials are complete. No decisions have been made at this time, they are only beginning the review process. Committee Chair Root asked how long the review process takes. Planning & Development Specialist Michelle Denhoff indicated six months to a year, although it could sometimes take longer.

Consolidated Funding Application

Mr. Dirlam stated there will be a Consolidated Funding Application event with Empire State Development as well as other agencies held at the Crossroads Center on Tuesday, May 21, at 11:00 a.m.

Goals

Committee Chair Root stated she is happy to see that Dr. Clark includes his 2019 goals on his monthly report as well as his needs in order to reach them.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Kier Dirlam attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Dirlam stated they have received several comments and edits for the Comprehensive Plan. They are currently undergoing the edit process and should still be able to meet their original timeline for approval.

Waterfront Revitalization

Mr. Dirlam stated they continue to work with the Village of Wellsville on the local waterfront revitalization plan. Mr. Dirlam recently took information back to the group regarding towns located on the northern end of the County such as Caneadea, Hume, and Granger that may be interested in becoming part of the plan. They will be reaching out to the towns and setting up a series of meetings. Mr. Dirlam indicated they are looking for a letter of support from the County regarding this project, and he will plan to have that at the next committee meeting. Legislator Hopkins asked if Mr. Dirlam would notify the appropriate district legislators for the meetings with interested towns. Mr. Dirlam stated this plan is being coordinated by Brenda Szabo, Vice President of Diagnostics and Rehab at Jones Memorial Hospital, who is attending the town board meetings to discuss the plan.

County Re-Branding

Mr. Dirlam stated they recently spent two full days with Josiah Brown meeting with approximately 50 different people in addition to the public session that was held at the Howe Library in Wellsville. They are still looking for the County's new brand, and a series of follow-up meetings will be held in late May or June.

Top Priorities

Committee Chair Root asked Mr. Dirlam what his top two priorities are for the upcoming months. Mr. Dirlam stated his number one priority is the comprehensive plan and his second is being able to assist communities that plan to submit grant applications that are due in July.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Ms. Lynch stated they were very excited to hear that they received more money for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant, adding that the grant application is their top priority this next month.

Unemployment Rate

Legislator Barnes asked if the unemployment rate is up or down from the 6.1 percent that was reported in March. Ms. Lynch stated it's roughly the same and is better than it was a year ago.

Veterans

Legislator Healy stated he is always interested in the veterans and how much they utilize Employment & Training's services. Legislator Healy noted that last week's national job reports on the national unemployment number for veterans was less than 2 percent which he thinks is a positive sign. Ms. Lynch stated they have a veteran representative from the Department of Labor that visits their office every Tuesday, and he recently stated that all of the veterans he has been working with have been very successful in finding jobs. Ms. Lynch indicated they are currently working with a veteran who wants to become an entrepreneur in farming who comes from a

farming family and also owns land. Legislator Healy thanked Ms. Lynch for her continued endeavors and outreach with our veterans.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Ms. Lynch stated she received notice from the Department of Social Services that they have received funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program. Those funds, coupled with the money they have left over from last year, they are looking at over \$190,000 to spend on work experience for youth. Currently, they have received 120 applications, and of those 67 are eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

Life Skills Boot Camp

Ms. Lynch stated they have met with Cornell Cooperative Extension, and they are planning to work together again this summer on another Life Skills Book Camp.

Cattaraugus Allegany Workforce Development Board Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title 1 Grant

Ms. Lynch requested permission to apply for the Cattaraugus Allegany Workforce Development Board Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title 1 grant. This is to provide workforce preparation and development services to youth, ages 16 to 24 that are in or out of school. This application will include activities that help youth prepare for transition to post-secondary education and training, provide paid and unpaid work experience, education offered with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for specific occupations, support services, and follow up services for not less than twelve months after completion of participation. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Dibble, seconded by Legislator Ricci, and carried. **Refer to Ways and Means**

Allegany County Land Bank Appointments

The Chairman of the Board plans to appoint David Evans of Bolivar, NY, to fill the remainder of Dean Scholes' two-year term and Aaron Whitehouse of Wellsville, NY, to fill the remainder of James Knapp's two-year term as members of the Allegany County Land Bank Corporation Board of Directors effective immediately and expiring September 30, 2019, subject to confirmation by the Board of Legislators. This request was approved on a motion made by Legislator Hopkins, seconded by Legislator Dibble, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Broadband Update

Legislator Curran stated the last mile providers are busy putting up microcell towers, most notably one that will serve part of Rushford Lake.

Watershed Report

Committee Chair Root stated Mr. Dirlam will go back to his task force committee and discuss concerns of the watershed report and bring any information back to the Planning & Economic Development Committee in June.

State Forest Land

Legislator Healy referenced the recently passed resolution supporting the new State Forest Land in Angelica. Several Legislators, members of the Farm Bureau who spoke in support, as well as County Treasurer Terri Ross attended the Town of Angelica Board meeting and Legislator Healy asked Committee Chair Root to comment on the presentation that was given by

the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Committee Chair Root stated that it seemed to be a full house at the meeting. The DEC had three members who gave what she thought was a good presentation. They talked about what they have already been doing with forest land, why they want the land located in Angelica, as well as the funding and grant money they will utilize for trails on the land. The Town of Angelica Board was there to ask questions, and the meeting was then opened to the audience for comments. The Town Board did not take any action on the topic; it was just an information gathering meeting. Committee Chair Root continued that the Town Board had a lot of questions and concerns regarding taxes and how the State will handle them; however, she believes County Treasurer Ross alleviated those concerns. Committee Chair Root also discussed Tourism and how this State land will help it, stating that for every \$1 that is spent, \$450 comes back to the County. Legislator Healy stated that it appears to him that there is very little downside to this land being transferred to the State.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Barnes, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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