

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 7, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Barb Roberts, Dale Weston, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Sean Lanning, Cathy Haskell, Peter DeWind

Guests: Becca Maffei, Tioga County Tourism Director, Keith Flesher

Committee Chair, Legislator Barb Roberts, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): LeeAnn Tinney. Ms. Tinney reported the following; agenda and attachments previously emailed.

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of January 3, 2022

Legislator Roberts asked for approval of the minutes from the January 3, 2023 committee meeting. Legislator Mullen made a motion to accept the January 3, 2023 minutes, seconded by Legislator Weston. All were in favor.

Ms. Tinney welcomed Keith Flesher to the meeting. If everything goes as planned Mr. Flesher will fill Ed Hollenbeck's unexpired term as Legislator and will be appointed to this committee.

II. FINANCIAL

The 2023 Year-to-Date Budget Reports were in the committee packets. Ms. Tinney reported the following:

A. Economic Development

- Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

B. Planning

- Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

C. Sustainability Management

- Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Tioga County Tourism, Becca Maffei – Monthly report was previously emailed. Ms. Maffei reviewed her report, highlighting: DRI Wayfinding Sign Project, Recruitment

Website, Travel Guide, Online Services, ITI Digital Event Calendar, Geocache Tour, and Taste Tioga Promotion.

Ms. Tinney mentioned there is one LDC Board vacancy they are looking to fill. Ms. Maffei reported Lisa Engelbert is not going to continue her term and will be looking for someone in the Ag field for replacement. A resolution will soon be brought forward for this appointment.

2. Cornell Cooperative Extension – Monthly report previously emailed.
3. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – No report.
4. Economic Development, Sean Lanning- In keeping with staff reporting, Ms. Tinney introduced Mr. Lanning, Education Workforce Coordinator. Mr. Lanning highlighted the following projects he is working on:
 - Works with school districts and BOCES connecting them with businesses.
 - Facilitates the following meetings:
 - Talent Supply Table umbrella committee meeting with school superintendents and BOCES principals as well as Tioga County Career Center.
 - The Program Coordinator Subcommittee with guidance counselors and work-based learning coordinators; people in the schools that are implementing the workforce program.
 - Intergovernmental Subcommittee made up of people not in the schools, but are in the workforce world; Broome-Tioga Workforce, Legislature, Mark Dixon (Floyd Hooker Foundation), those that should be aware of this program and might be able to provide assistance in achieving our goal.

Since July, several meetings have been held with good participation.

Priorities set out to do:

- Mr. Lanning created an Education Workforce Report; he reviewed and distributed a copy. This report is on the website and will be emailed to everyone on this committee.
- A shared business list has been created; businesses that are offering internships and job shadows. This list goes out to all 6 school districts and 3 BOCES. Feedback has been good on this report.
- Create a job board that businesses can post for students. This is to be pushed out in March.

Mr. Lanning reported that Broome County has available internships listed on their website and offered to look into this for Tioga County if interested.

- Create a career pathways document that schools can implement and add to their course guide. This document would list industries, such as manufacturing, warehousing, healthcare, etc. This document will show students what businesses are in the County, what careers are available and salaries that can be earned. Giving students direction; what courses to take to go into the career they want.

Projects working on:

- Candor EMS Junior Healthcare Program - \$36,000.00 in grant funding awarded
- OFA and the Land Bank Liberty Street House Project - Additional \$18,000.00 grant funding awarded. Newark Valley interested in doing something similar.
- The idea of a Satellite BOCES is being discussed, as well as the possibility of sending students from one school district to another to take a class offered.

- Worked on an ESD Grant for Owego Apalachin School to renovate their CTE Center for use of additional programming and possibly provide adult education. Mr. Lanning reported the Twin Tier Regional Job Fair is on March 1st. The Waverly School District and the Tioga County Career Center had job fairs in the past. This is a joint job fair with over 80 businesses and over 300 students signed up. The general public will also be invited.

Ms. Tinney continued:

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – Tioga County as applicant
 - a. CDBG- Village of Owego, Racker Neighborhood Depot Project
 - i. Out to bid January 23rd, deadline for responses is February 23rd.
 - b. NY Main Street- Village of Owego, North Ave. ED&P is administering on behalf of the Village.
 - i. In final stages; final draw has been requested.
 - c. Restore NY- Fuddy Duddy's; process started with the State.
 - d. NYS Snowmobile Grant- Countywide; this is ongoing.
 - e. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant - Update Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - i. RFP issued January 4th; several responses being reviewed by Ms. Jardine and Ms. Walsh.
 - f. DOS Local Government Efficiency Grant – Written by IT to expand services to integrate into County system.
 - i. Village of Owego- Nearing completion.
 - ii. Town of Candor- Waiting on pole placement to move forward.
 - g. ARC Grant for the update of Countywide Strategic Plan has been approved; paperwork has begun.
 - h. NYPA- EV charging stations- Mr. DeWind reported the Site Host Agreement is still under review and will continue to look for a resolution.
 - i. DEC- Household Hazardous Waste Program- Application due February 28th. This is an annual grant that helps fund Dr. Pratt's position.
2. Grant Administrative Revenue
 - a. 2022/2023- Ms. Tinney distributed a worksheet showing revenue ED&P brings into the County General Fund as a result in participating in various programs.

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Village of Owego
 - a. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) administration
 - i. The Village of Owego has included paving and striping of the County parking lot in the DRI funding. Mr. Hammond has helped in facilitating this project.
2. Village of Waverly
 - a. NY Forward application – Still on the short list; announcement has not been made.
3. Town of Nichols
 - a. Broadband Project continues to move forward; 40 people attended the last meeting at the fire hall.
4. REAP- No update at this time.

5. Leadership Tioga- Classes have started.

D. Land Bank

1. OACSD House rehabilitation project is ongoing.
2. Ms. Woodburn continues to work with Providence Housing regarding a potential housing project on Temple and Liberty.

E. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning reported on earlier.

1. Exploring School to Work Mfg program (AM&T)
2. Program Coordinator Sub Committee meeting (1/17)
3. Talent Supply Table meeting (1/25)
4. Intergovernmental Sub Committee meeting (1/26)
5. Exploring Land Bank/Newark Valley School project

F. Planning

G. Sustainability Management- Dr. Pratt continues to work on:

1. Educational Videos- Reducing Waste Education
2. "Don't Be Like This Guy" – basics (littering)
3. February E-Bulletin to Tioga County Employees
4. Updating website
5. Municipal Electronic Waste partnerships- Making progress; municipalities showing interest.

H. IDA

1. Owego Gardens

- a. Veolia has taken over the water system from the IDA.
- b. Occupants will be moving in this month.

Legislative Chair, Ms. Sauerbrey, asked about the sign she saw saying "Owego Square." Ms. Tinney stated the name of the housing project is Owego Square.

- c. Roadway dedication- Resolution listed below for the County to take over ownership of the newly constructed portion of Belva Lockwood Lane.

- Home Leasing built the road with the expectation that it would be turned over to the Village of Owego.
- The Village did not take steps to take over the road, making two problems:
 - There are school age students that will be living in the development and the school is not permitted to provide transportation on a private road. The road has to be owned by a municipality for school bus transportation.
 - Veolia will not accept a water system on a privately owned road.

After options were discussed, the County decided to accept ownership of the road. Legislative Chair, Ms. Sauerbrey, reported that the County will eventually turn the road over to the Village of Owego upon agreement with DOT.

Ms. Tinney distributed information on the PILOT associated with this project showing the amount each entity will receive each year.

Ms. Tinney reported, as stated in the resolution, that the County will not take responsibility for the lighting or the hydrants on the road. Home Leasing is in conversation with the Village of Owego on these issues.

2. Best Bev
 - a. PILOT - Request made for financial assistance made by Best Bev for a modified PILOT looking for sales tax abatement and a modified deviation on real property tax abatement. Based on input from municipalities and people at the public hearing the IDA Board voted to allow for sales tax abatement only; no real property tax abatement. Best Bev was agreeable and we proposed a 485B which is another way to ease in the new property taxes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grants

1. Restore NY Grant- Tioga Trails Building, grant application submitted. Resolution listed below.

B. Economic/Community Development

1. Ag and Farmland Protection Board needs a Legislator to fill Legislator Hollenbeck's position. After the Legislature decides who to appoint a resolution will be brought forward.

C. Presentations- No presentations this month.

D. Land Bank

1. Land Bank Initiative- Ms. Woodburn will be applying for Phase 2 funding.

E. Workforce Development

F. Planning

1. 239 Reviews (1)

- a. County Case 2023-001: Town of Nichols, Use Variance (Chris Crown) recommendation for disapproval.

G. Sustainability Management

1. Reduce Waste Plan- Dr. Pratt is working on RFP.

H. Misc.

1. State Lead Responses- no state leads this month.

2. Occupancy Tax 2022- Actual numbers are in.

- a. 2022- \$30,000 was projected as part of the ED&P budget.

Once appropriation was made to the Tourism Office and the 5% was taken for the County, the actual payment we were able to apply to our local share for the Economic Development budget was \$75,158. This was \$45,158 more than we had anticipated. Ms. Tinney reported that what we're having to ask taxpayers to contribute to run the Economic Development Office was reduced by \$45,158.

If the total sum amount received is approximately \$358,000, 1st 5% goes to the County, then 75% of what's remaining is dedicated to the Tourism Office and 25% goes to ED&P. The question Ms. Tinney asks is if the disbursement to the Tourism Office is meant to be the entire 75% of the occupancy tax revenue, or

75% up to \$170,000. and if it is to be up to \$170,000., where are the balance of the funds applied?

Ms. Tinney acknowledged that when there was not enough money by way of the occupancy tax to pay the \$170,000.00 to Tourism, the County made up the difference as was the case in COVID years.

In 2022, the number was bigger, so there is money left over. Ms. Tinney stated that Ms. Chandler said it goes into reserve.

Ms. Haskell reported she researched worksession minutes. The \$170,000. included the extra \$20,000.00 for the Tourism Center to get up and running. Then it was to go back down to \$150,000. Any access goes into Tourism reserve. In 2018 the Legislature said 5% goes to the County and Tourism was capped at \$150,000.

Ms. Tinney reported Tourism got \$170,000.00 this year.

Legislative Chair Ms. Sauerbrey suggested a meeting should be set up with Mr. McFadden and Ms. Chandler to work out the details and come to a decision how it should go moving forward.

Ms. Haskell will forward all the information she has to Ms. Tinney.

Once information is collected it was suggested that a resolution should be brought forward stating how this should work going forward.

3. Unemployment rates update:
 - a. State= 4.3%
 - b. Tioga County= 2.7%
4. Office move – ED&P has successfully moved to the new office. Buildings and Grounds did a great job. Ms. Tinney invited this committee to come to the new office.

V. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report.

VI. RESOLUTIONS

B09-Authorizing Legislative Chair Signature on Farmer Brown Solar LLC Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement 2023

B10-Authorization to Submit Application and Administer a Restore NY Grant for the Property at 48-50 Lake Street Owego

B14-Resolution Accepting Newly Constructed Portion of Belva Lockwood Lane as County Roadway

B17-Set Public Hearing for 2023 Annual Agricultural District Inclusions

After reviewing the above resolutions, Ms. Tinney asked this committee for support to move the resolutions forward; vote on the resolutions follows:

Legislator Roberts – yes
Legislator Mullen - yes
Legislator Weston – yes

VII. PROCLAMATIONS- N/A

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Sampson
Administrative Assistant Economic Development & Planning