

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING May 7, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Keith Flesher, Ron Ciotoli, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: Brittany Woodburn, Linda Sampson, Dr. Ellen Pratt, Cathy Haskell

Guests: Dr. Kristi Snyder, Tioga County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

Committee Chair, Legislator Barb Roberts, was not in attendance.

Legislator Keith Flesher called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): Agenda and attachments previously emailed.

I. MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from March 5, 2024, and April 2, 2024 – Legislator Flesher asked for approval of the minutes from March 5, 2024, and April 2, 2024, committee meetings. Legislator Ciotoli made a motion to accept the minutes from both meetings, seconded by Legislator Mullen. All were in favor.

Ms. Woodburn reported the following:

II. FINANCIAL

- A. 2024 Budget – Ms. Woodburn reported the following:
1. Economic Development
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
 2. Planning
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
 3. Sustainability Management
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Reports
1. Tioga County Tourism – Monthly report previously emailed and is in the committee packet.
 2. Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District – No report this month.

3. Tioga County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) – Dr. Kristi Snyder, Executive Director, reviewed her report previously emailed; highlighting Organizational Updates, Community Outreach, Campus Connection, Agriculture Outreach Programs, Horticulture Outreach, Collaboration & Research, Master Gardeners, 4-H Youth Development and Family Resource Center. Dr. Snyder announced the annual plant sale will be on June 1st.

Not on her report, Dr. Snyder reported having a high enrollment in their Workforce Program.

4. Economic Development – In keeping with staff reporting, Ms. Woodburn introduced Dr. Ellen Pratt, Sustainability Manager. Dr. Pratt reported the following:
 - EV Charging Stations project in Owego is progressing slowly.
 - The Solid Waste Management Plan submitted in December is under the second round of reviews and has heard positive feedback regarding the work being done.
 - Met with Deb Smith, Solid Waste Management in Broome County regarding the current Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Contract ending at the end of 2024. The new 2025-2026 contract will reflect an increase in the annual fee from \$3,200.00 to \$3,300.00 and the increase for HHW will be from \$0.75 per pound to \$0.78 per pound. These prices are according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). They will no longer be accepting electronics from Tioga County residents starting in 2025.
 - Reached out to Jared Taylor at Casella regarding a partnership to collect electronic waste at their Owego transfer station. This would be free for residents and only household electronics will be accepted, no business electronics. The Tioga County Sustainability Department will pay any disposal cost, if any. Dr. Pratt drafted an agreement. The County Attorney, Mr. DeWind, has reviewed and approved the agreement and the resolution for consideration is listed below.
 - Due to an interest in sustainability projects, met with Chris Wagner, Crown, Cork and Seal, and Danielle Singer, Soil and Water. From this meeting Ms. Singer came up with the idea of a sustainability award for businesses in Tioga County and would like the support of the Tioga County Legislature. With positive responses from this committee Dr. Pratt will follow up with more information on how this program might work.
 - Attended the Climate Action Summit at Binghamton University; went to the Agriculture & Food Insecurity and Energy breakout sessions.
 - Was the Environmental Issues Instructor for the Southern Tier Regional Envirothon Event.
 - Town of Owego and Newark Valley have held clean up events. Town of Tioga will have an event on May 18th and the Town of Nichols event will be in October. Legislator Flesher mentioned Town of Berkshire had their event last weekend.
 - Borrow-A-Bin Program is going well. Had 3 events, 4 future events have reserved bins.

- Backyard Compost Bin Program is going well; over 50 bins sold.
- Entering a contract with Deluge Media for the creation of promotional videos. Resolution for consideration listed below.

Ms. Woodburn continued to report:

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – Tioga County as applicant
 - a. CDBG – Racker Neighborhood Depot- Toured the building this morning. Project is moving quickly. All the walls should be framed by next week. The grant agreement expires in June; however, the State will allow us to extend it to the end of the year.
 - b. Restore NY Round VI – River House Confectionery and Mercantile- Project continues to move forward, working on engineer drawings and getting financing in place.
 - c. Restore NY Round VII – Tioga Trails- Project continues to move forward, working on engineer drawings and getting financing in place.
 - d. NYS Snowmobile – Countywide Phase 1 & Phase III – Certificates of Insurance in place, Mr. Lanning is working on expense documentation.
 - e. NYPA – EV charging stations- Dr. Pratt reported on earlier.
 - f. Solid Waste Management plan – Dr. Pratt reported on earlier.
 - g. FEMA – Hazard Mitigation Plan update- Ms. Jardine provided an update. The plan has moved on from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and is with FEMA now for their review. After June 1st the municipalities will work on adopting the plan. A resolution will be brought forward next month for the County's consideration to adopt the plan.

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Village of Owego DRI projects are ongoing; nine projects nearing completion. We will be looking to extend this program to the end of the year. Most projects should be complete by August.
2. Village of Waverly – NY Forward- Still waiting on the State to make an announcement.
3. Broadband – STN exploring additional ConnectAll funding
 - a. Application submitted in March for a 19.4 million dollar grant to serve about 5000 homes. If awarded, this will include some areas in Tioga County, such as the remainder of homes they couldn't reach in Nichols with the previous program and up Route 38 towards the Village of Newark Valley. This project is under a new name: Municipal Infrastructure Program. They have received a conditional award, so we are expecting good news.

D. Land Bank

1. 10 Watson Avenue, NV – House rehabilitation in progress by a local developer. The Land Bank has paid for the foundation repair. Expect completion in June and will be sold as a single family home; back on the tax rolls.
2. 81 North Avenue, Owego – Mixed rehabilitation building project in Owego. The architectural draft drawings are in progress. The cleanout process has begun.

3. Temple/Liberty Street, Owego – Single family home site plan; continue to work with Fagan Engineers. Ms. Woodburn reported a lot of funding sources from the State are coming out for single family homes.
- E. Workforce Development
1. Business Leads Fellowship Program – Mr. Lanning continues to participate in this program. Recently attended a session on K-12 literacy and teacher workforce.
 2. Talent Supply Table – Mr. Lanning continues to manage these group meetings.
 3. ED&P Internship – MOU signed by all parties and is in Munis. Finalizing the work plan and the Intern begins on Monday, May 13th.
- F. Planning
1. 2024 Annual Agricultural District Inclusions- Ms. Jardine has received certification from the Commissioner of Ag and Markets for the two requests received this year.
- G. Sustainability Management
1. Municipal Electronic Waste Program- Dr. Pratt reported on earlier.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Grants
1. Potential
 - a. Restore NY Round VIII – Assisting the Village of Newark Valley in submitting a grant application for 10 Whig Street and 14-16 Whig Street.
 - b. Restore NY Round VIII – Tioga County/Land Bank- Looking to apply for funding for rehabilitation of 81 North Avenue and new construction on Temple and Liberty Streets. The public hearing was held last month. The grant request is for over one million dollars. The Land Bank would act as a sub-recipient and provide the matching funds. The resolution to apply is listed below.
 - c. CDBG Microenterprise program – This is the grant program for small businesses. The pre-application was accepted by the State. Initial outreach resulted in 12 applications totaling \$345,000.00 in grant funds. Another round of requests will go out after these funds are awarded.
 - d. CDBG Public Facilities – Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga is moving to a new facility in the Town of Nichols. There is no kitchen space there. They will use the Nichols Fire Department temporarily to continue to provide food services. They are looking for funding sources for a mobile kitchen. It looks like they are a good fit for the CDBG program. Once information is gathered, they may ask us for assistance to apply on their behalf.
- B. Economic/Community Development
1. Presentations – Mr. Lanning attended the April COG meeting and will be going back in May to make the Pro-Housing Communities presentation to the municipalities.
 2. Town of Berkshire – Mr. Lanning is sending out an RFP for the George Smith Memorial Park Master Plan. Responses are due this week.
 3. Pro-Housing Community Program
 - a. STREDC held a webinar for municipalities.
- C. Land Bank

1. 121 Providence Street and 32 Lyman Avenue, Waverly – Rehabilitation projects in progress.
2. 247 Main Street, Owego – Recently approved working with a local developer for rehabilitation project.
3. HOME Homebuyer Development program application for single family home construction/rehabilitation – This is a new program developed for rural Landbanks for new construction or rehabilitation of single-family homes.
4. CrossMod PILOT program application – The Land Bank will be submitting sites for consideration.

D. Workforce Development

1. Assisted in a Congressionally Directed Spending request for the Owego Apalachin/BT BOCES satellite campus in Owego's Maintenance Building.

E. Planning – Ms. Jardine is working on the following:

1. ARC READY Local Government Program – Assisted the Town of Berkshire with this application and they were awarded. It is a no-cost training for them. Once the training is complete, they get up to \$50,000 in funding with no match required. This is to help them do internal capacity-building projects.
2. Two Rivers State Park – NYS DOT Region 9 is considering Two Rivers State Park/Waverly Glen Park Guide Signs.
3. 239 Reviews (2)
 - a. 2024-011 Town of Owego; Special Use Permit, Nickels-Schaffer; TCPB waived recommendation due to lack of countywide or intermunicipal impacts.
 - b. 2024-012 Town of Owego; Special Use Permit and parking and loading space area variances, Tractor Supply; recommended approval – TCPB voted to recommend approval.

F. Sustainability Management

1. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) contract with Broome County

2. 2024 YTD

a. Paid to Broome County	2024	2023
i. HHW=	\$0	\$12,925.50
ii. E-Waste=	\$0	\$6,000.05
b. Towns/County(EWaste)=	\$522	\$679.68

G. IDA

1. Executive Director – Ms. Curtis submitted her resignation as of 4/30/24. The IDA is working on posting an ad for the position of Administrator.
2. Temporary administrative support- Ms. Schnabl will be providing support for the next three to four months outside her county hours.

V. PERSONNEL

- A. Economic Development Specialist – After posting this position, applicants were interviewed, and a resolution is listed below requesting authorization for hiring a full-time Economic Development Specialist. Start date June 17th.

VI. RESOLUTIONS (5)

- E08-Authorizing Legislative Chair Signature on Contract for Professional Services with Deluge Media to Create Two Promotional Videos
- E09-Electronic Waste Agreement with Casella
- E10-Appoint REAP Board Member (SLanning)
- E13-Authorization for EDP to Apply for Restore NY Grant Funds
- E16-Hiring of Full Time EcDev Specialist (CYelverton)

After reviewing the above resolutions, Ms. Woodburn asked this committee for support to move the resolutions forward. The vote to support the above resolutions follows:

- Legislator Flesher – yes
- Legislator Mullen – yes
- Legislator Ciotoli - yes

VII. PROCLAMATIONS- N/A

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Sampson
Administrative Assistant Economic Development & Planning