

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING October 4, 2022

### **ATTENDEES:**

**Legislators:** Barbara Roberts, Ron Ciotoli, Dennis Mullen, Dale Weston

**Staff:** LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell, Abbey Ortu, Ellen Pratt

**Guests:** None

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): LeeAnn Tinney** – Agenda and attachments previously emailed.

### **I. MINUTES**

#### A. Approval of minutes of September 6, 2022

Committee Chair, Legislator Roberts, asked for approval of the minutes from the September 6, 2022 committee meeting. Legislator Weston made a motion to accept the September 6, 2022 minutes, seconded by Legislator Mullen. All were in favor.

### **II. FINANCIAL**

The 2022 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 Soil & Water Conservation District- Wendy Walsh was not in attendance; no monthly report.
2. Tioga County Tourism – Monthly report previously emailed.

Ms. Tinney reported that in the past we had Lori Ward from Finger Lakes Wine Country present to the Legislature, however, since funding is no longer coming through the

County for our participation, it seemed more appropriate for her to present to the LDC Board members at the meeting Thursday morning, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

3. Cornell Cooperative Extension- Monthly report previously emailed.
4. Community Development, Abbey Ortu – In keeping with staff reporting; Ms. Tinney introduced Ms. Ortu, Community Development Specialist. Ms. Ortu highlighted the following:
  - A brief job description; connecting people, organizations and businesses to the resources they need be successful.
  - Volunteer a lot in the community; work with various organizations assessing their needs to have a frame of reference to move forward with providing assistance.
  - Worked with the TEAM to complete the NYForward Application for the Village of Waverly; \$12M worth of projects identified. Will hopefully hear about this by the end of the year.
  - Working with Carantowan Greenway, the Waverly School District, the Village of Waverly, Waverly Business Association and Tourism on a Waverly Waterfront Access and Trail Connectivity Project. The village and the school district have identified two parcels in the Village of Waverly next to River Road. A team out of Cornell University will be assessing the site to see if we can turn it into a park. Also working with 30-35 Waverly High School students on this project.
  - Recently completed the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Study; assisting the Council of Government to get it out to Municipal Leaders.
  - Ms. Ortu is the President of REAP (Rural Economic Area Partnership); one of five REAP zones in the United States. We use this group to help organizations in Tioga County. Presently working on a cemetery study. There are 129 cemeteries in Tioga County. If one fails, it goes to the Town to manage. We are trying to prevent this from happening; grant funding has been applied for this project.
  - Facilitates the Leadership Tioga Program.
  - Wrapping up the Waverly Glen Park Project shortly; waiting on funding for playground equipment.

Ms. Tinney reported Ms. Ortu has a background in art and does the graphic design work for the department.

## B. Grants

### 1. Status

- a. Potential (17)
- b. Pending (21)
- c. Active (36)
- d. Completed (12)

## C. Economic/Community Development

### 1. Village of Owego

- a. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) administration- This project is ongoing.
- b. NY Main Street (North Ave.) administration- This project in ongoing.
- c. OPRHP EPF Grant- ED&P TEAM is providing assistance to the Village of Owego on their grant for the Owego Police Station improvements. A press release has been sent out to make the community aware of the project.

Legislative Chair asked about the fire station roof project- Ms. Tinney reported being able to take some of the “turned back” DRI funds and apply them to the firehouse for repair of the roof because it was identified in the initial plan but was not fully funded when awards were made.

Legislator Weston mentioned money is needed for topping on a trail in Spencer. Mr. Weston also mentioned he has a large bell that was given to him from a church that closed down and would like to give it to Village for their use. Ms. Tinney reported Ms. Ortu can assist with making connections for funding for these two projects.

2. Village of Waverly
  - a. NY Forward application- All of the TEAM assisted on this grant on behalf of the Village of Waverly and was submitted 9/22. Up to \$4.5M could be awarded. 15 applications were submitted; very competitive, only 2 or 3 will be awarded. Ms. Tinney also reported the Best Bev Project, the canning facility looking to locate in the Waverly Trade Center. Crown Cork and Seal makes the cans and Best Bev will fill the cans. Hoping to hire 60 people, with the intent to grow to 120 employees. Ms. Tinney will attend the Village of Waverly meeting tonight, as well as the Planning Board meeting, looking for local approvals to move the project forward. There are wastewater and water system challenges to work through.
3. Village of Candor
  - a. NY Main Street administration- A Land Bank project; continues to move forward.
4. Town of Nichols- Broadband ConnectALL Initiative
  - a. Have started connecting houses; fiber run on East and River Road.
  - b. Tioga Central/Owego Apalachin Schools outreach- Opportunity for some residents that may qualify for service at \$10.00 a month.
  - c. Working on Town Justice grant application for security equipment for the court.
5. Municipalities
  - a. Snowmobile Grants- Project is ongoing.
  - b. Sweeper/Vacuum truck status
    1. Shared Services Agreement- Still working on.
  - c. Recruitment Website- In the review stages; a tool to be used to bring people to Tioga County.
6. REAP
7. Leadership Tioga
8. Chambers of Commerce
  - a. Tioga County Chamber of Commerce
    - i. Chamber Stakes event- Held at Tioga Downs; community awards given, it was a nice event.
    - ii. Business Expo- Being held at Tioga Downs Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>; bringing back the Chamber Business Show.
    - iii. Meet the Candidates Event being worked on.
- D. Land Bank- Resolution listed below.
- E. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning is at a conference this week and continues to work on the following:

1. Talent Supply Table first meeting
  - a. Program Coordinator Subcommittee meeting
  - b. Intergovernmental Subcommittee meeting
- F. Planning- Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
  1. Village of Waverly NY Forward application
  2. Attended the NYSAC Fall Conference
  3. Town of Richford Solar Energy Law
  4. Countywide Strategic Plan- ARC funding applied for. County agreed to 50% match of \$25K. Originally hoped for the match to come out of the 2022 budget, but looks like it might be pushed to the 2023 budget for the match.
  5. NYS Department of Ag & Markets- Two resolutions listed below for:
    - a. Adopt Cooperative Agreement
    - b. Adopt customized SEQR EAF form
- G. Sustainability Management
  1. October E-Bulletin to Tioga County Employees
  2. Hazardous Waste Program
    - a. Electronics/Hazardous Waste Paid to Broome Co- \$21,513.55
    - b. Electronics/Tioga County Towns Paid- \$1,641.60

Ms. Tinney reported there is a resolution listed below regarding the Evolve NY Program for EV charging stations. Ms. Tinney stated the resolution was pulled last month due to unanswered questions. The resolution listed below has answered the question regarding the increase in premium for insurance because the charging station will be located in the flood zone. Ms. Pratt worked with the Village of Owego and an agreement was made that the Village of Owego would contribute \$500.00 annually to cover the cost of additional insurance and will enter into a Memo of Understanding with the County. Ms. Pratt is in attendance to answer questions.

Legislator Ciotoli asked if Mr. DeWind was on board. Ms. Pratt reported that Mr. DeWind was in agreement and that he suggested we go with the higher deductible at \$1000.00, stating that whatever the insurance doesn't cover FEMA will. Legislator Ciotoli also suggested the use of signage once the charging stations are installed. Ms. Pratt will be working with Tourism on advertising and promotion of the stations. Everyone was in agreement on moving this resolution forward.

Legislator Roberts thanked Ms. Pratt for her work on "Don't Be That Guy" promotion.

- H. IDA
  1. Owego Gardens- This project is ongoing. PSC (Public Service Commission) has been notified to help work through some challenges.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Reports
- B. Grants
- C. Economic/Community Development
- D. Presentations (3)
  1. Tioga County Chamber Business Expo breakout sessions.

2. Owego Kiwanis- Ms. Curtis gave an update on Owego Gardens.
  3. IDA Board- Mr. Lanning gave an update on Workforce Development.
- E. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning is working on the following:
1. Working with Waverly School District on the Tioga Career Center.
  2. Twin Tiers Regional Job Fair planning with the Greater Valley Chamber.
- F. Planning
1. 239 Reviews (2)
    - a. County Case 2022-025: Town of Barton, Site Plan Review (Elm Line LLC)- unanimous approval recommendation
    - b. County Case 2022-026: Village of Waverly, Site Plan Review and Area Variance (Best Bev)- non-action; not enough present for a vote
- Ms. Tinney reported Ms. Jardine is struggling trying to find Planning Board Members and asked this committee for suggestions.
- G. Sustainability Management
1. Town of Nichols Clean-up Event
- H. IDA
- I. Misc.
1. State Lead Responses- None

**V. PERSONNEL-** No issues.

**VI. RESOLUTIONS**

- J01-Adopt Ag Districts new SEQR Short EAF
- J02-Adopt Ag Markets SEQR Cooperative Agreement
- J06-Authorization to Accept IDA-ARC Grant Funds and Modify EDP Budget
- J11-Site Host Agreement with New York Power Authority (NYPA) For the EVolve NY Program

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 Ciotoli - yes  
 Legislator Weston – yes

The following resolution is going to be amended by Ms. Haskell, to reflect the removal of the 94 Spencer Avenue property in the Village of Owego that was to be transferred to the Property Development Corporation:

- J25-Transfer Sale of Properties to TCPDC

Ms. Woodburn was in attendance at last night's Village of Owego Board meeting looking for the Village to agree to enter into a Memo of Understanding that the Village would provide half of the cost to demolish the building. Due to Mayor Baratta's recusal, a Land Bank Board member, there was not a quorum to take action.

This committee was in support to move the amended resolution forward, vote followed:

Legislator Roberts - yes  
 Legislator Mullen - yes

Legislator Ciotoli - yes  
Legislator Weston – yes

**VII. PROCLAMATIONS- N/A**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Sampson  
Administrative Assistant Economic Development