

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING September 8, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Dale Weston, Ed Hollenbeck, Mike Roberts, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, T Hanson, Teresa Saraceno, Megan Griffiths, Jackson Bailey

Guests: none

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

MINUTES

- Approval of minutes from August 4, 2020 – Legislator Weston asked for approval of minutes from the August 4, 2020 committee meeting. Legislator Mullen made a motion to accept the August 4, 2020 minutes, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck. All were in favor.

Legislative Chair, Marte Sauerbrey, introduced T Hanson, CCE Executive Director, to the committee.

Not on the agenda, Teresa Saraceno was present and available to answer any questions regarding the addition of the following resolution:

- I24-Tioga County Resolution Acquisition of 112 Liberty St May 2020 – Authorizing the sale and transfer of 112 Liberty St., Owego, NY from Tioga County to the Tioga County Property Development Corporation.

There were no questions. All were in favor of moving the resolution forward.

Megan Griffiths, Agricultural Development Specialist, reported on the following regarding the Owego/Nichols Ag District Eight Year Review:

- Outreach was made to land owners; sent out surveys.
- Worked with GIS; mapping the previous district, mapping the additions to the district.
- To date there are 27,491 acres in the district; a 2086 acre increase.

- 7 farms have been added making a total of 134 total farms. An increase of 994 acres in farms alone.
- Public Hearing was held the end of July.
- Ag & Farmland Protection Board approved the additions to the district.
- The resolution, listed below, is the adoption of the modifications to the Owego/Nichols Ag District. There were no requests to remove land.
- Once the resolution is approved, the maps and all the data get sent to NYS Ag & Markets.

There were no questions. All were in favor of moving the resolution forward.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (CCE): T Hanson, the new Executive Director replacing Andy Fagan. Ms. Hanson started in July and reported on how things are going since she has been hired. She talked about her background, gave insight to her vision for CCE and shared some stories of being out in the field touring dairy farms. Ms. Hanson distributed a dairy fact sheet; *Dairy & Field Crops in Tioga County: An Important Economic Engine*.

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

Ms. Tinney asked Jackson Bailey if he had anything he wanted to share. Mr. Bailey mentioned he received the ED&P memo regarding the additional 10% budget cut, otherwise, he was there to observe. Ms. Tinney asked if there were any questions regarding the budget cut. Legislative Sauerbrey stated there would not be a resolution, but if the money doesn't get spent it will go into the general fund.

Following are the Director's Highlights:

Meetings Attended – Ms. Tinney reported attending the following meetings:

- Southern Tier Network- The Broadband study is beginning to wrap up; final draft of the report is almost complete. Ms. Tinney will share the final draft if possible.
- Economic Development Organizations in the Southern Tier – Continue to meet; although missed last week due to vacations.
- Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council – Each of the sub groups continue to work on their section of the Strategic Recovery Plan.
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce – Working closely with Andy Hafer, President/CEO; a real partnership is forming.
- Leaders Meeting – Attended last month's meeting.
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce- Attended the monthly meeting and played in their golf tournament; great turn out and raised more money than in the past.
- STREDC- Attended monthly meeting. A couple of loans approved, one in Tioga County. Ms. Griffiths worked with an Amish family that was brought to her attention by Tom Mullen, Realtor. Ms. Griffiths helped the family prepare the application for the STREDC Agricultural money.
- VEDA- Attended the monthly meeting.
- Regional Council- Executive Committee- Attended the monthly meeting.
- Regional Council Board- The Regional Council is working on updating the Strategic Plan for the Region. Work groups have been put in place to update the plan.

- Developer- Met to discuss a potential project in Tioga County.
- Municipal Visits
 - Town of Owego- Attended the meeting which included a public hearing regarding the rezoning of a parcel of property that is now zoned as residential, single family only. ED&P assisted the property owner with his request to rezone the parcel for a multi-unit type development. We have since heard that the zoning change was made and as a result, a housing project is likely to begin on that site located above Lockheed Martin.
- Business Visits
 - Met with Steve May, Owego Harford Railway, and a representative of RJ Corman, the purchaser of the Harford Railway business. RJ Corman will assume the operating agreement providing the IDA is in agreement, which they seem to be. RJ Corman has experience with Shortline Railroad across the country; looking forward to that partnership.
- Presentations- none this month.

Department Highlights

- COVID-19
 - Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council (TCERAC)
 - Economic Recovery Strategy Plan– Ms. Jardine continues to work on this project; writing the narrative has begun. Hopeful completion date is the end of September.
 - Pending Impacts
 - Child care; needs assessment- Ms. Woodburn and Ms. Hendrickson put together a survey, all the school districts participated, and we are now gathering data. We have received over 300 responses. Primary needs seem to be before and after school care. The plan is to relay the information to the school districts, as well as employers, in the hope of working together to address these issues.
 - Loan Request for Jackpot Richie's (\$25,000)- Ms. Tinney asked for a motion to affirm the email vote to approve the loan for Jackpot Richie's in the amount of \$25,000.00. Legislator Weston requested the motion. All were in favor of moving forward.
- Hotel/Motel Tax Local Law
 - Local Law- Mr. DeWind made a minor change that would address the issue of comped rooms.
 - Resolution to set Public Hearing, listed below– Date/time change to Wed., Sept. 23 @ 6PM.
- 2020 Census
 - Text Banking Event held- Approximately 4,500 people were sent a text to remind them to complete the Census for 2020. Tioga County response is around 68-69%; Ms. Jardine continues to work to improve those numbers.
 - Field visits have started.
 - Census Outreach Grant funds received- Resolution to modify the Planning budget is listed below.
- Village of Owego

- DRI (19 projects)- This project continues.
- NY Main Street- 6 projects on North Avenue have made it through the environmental phase.
- Owego Gardens 2- Project continues; approval of one of the funding entities, HFA. Waiting on two more; Enterprise and M & T Bank. Construction should begin in October upon HFA's approval.
- Land Bank- INHS (Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services) is interested in doing a project in the Liberty/Temple Street area; Ms. Saraceno and Ms. Woodburn is working on this. One of the projects anticipated is a child care center.
 - Additional property acquisitions pending
 - Bid documents completed
- RESTORE NY
 - Owego and Waverly projects progressing – Scaffolding is up; painting and façade work has begun on one of the Owego projects. Some DRI money is going towards this project as well as Restore NY funds. Also, the County had approved a loan out of the COVID Fund to assist in filling a gap. With the next disbursement, which Ms. Woodburn checks on the daily, the \$60,000.00 will be paid back to the County in full.
- Community Development – Ms. Hendrickson is working on the following:
 - Nichols Park- The historic designation has been met with challenges, but this project continues to move forward.
 - North Avenue Park- This project is in the final stages of making the land swap with Steve Lounsberry. The barber shop has been demolished to allow for a steamer to be on display in a glass enclosure.
 - Women's Suffrage Committee work- The month of August was the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.
 - Tioga County Non-Profit Network – Continues to meet on a regular basis.
- Workforce
 - Implementation Phase- Still looking for school district interviews. Ms. Woodburn continues to try to get input from school superintendents.
- Ag
 - 8 Year District Review (2 districts)
 - Owego/Nichols District- Resolution for approval listed below.
 - Spencer/Candor/Barton/Tioga- Public hearing completed; next step will be a resolution for approval.
 - Ag Value Chain Study- Study has begun. IDA applied and received funding through the USDA for this project.
- Planning
 - 239 Reviews- 3 requests:
 - County Case 2020-010- Town of Owego Site Plan Review, Taylor Garbage; TCPB waived recommendation.
 - County Case 2020-011- Town of Owego Special Use Permit, Krave Café; TCPB recommended approval.

- County Case 2020-012-Town of Owego Special Use Permit, Delaware Solar; TCPB recommended approval.
 - Active Plans – Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
 - REAP- Tioga County Workforce Pipeline- Implementation
 - Tioga County Economic Recovery Strategic Plan (COVID)
 - Village of Waverly Comprehensive Plan update – This came to light when ED&P made application for the Village of Owego DRI funding. One of the major barriers for submitting an application was that Waverly's Strategic Plan was so out of date. So that started the updating process.
- Grants
 - Potential
 - USDA RDBG- Tioga County Recruitment Tool for employers to use for potential employees.
 - USDA RDBG- Technical Assistance to Businesses, specifically Tourism related businesses; Ms. Woodburn is working with Ms. Maffei on this.
 - Town of Richford- USDA Community Facilities, (equipment)
 - Owego Elks Lodge (TBD)
 - Town of Berkshire (TBD)- rec trail
 - Village of Newark Valley- USDA Community Facilities (equipment)
 - Town of Berkshire- DOT TAP funding (sidewalk extension)
 - Northern Tioga Chamber- Community Foundation (facilities improvements)
 - Pending
 - Tioga County- Snowmobile
 - Owego Apalachin Central School District- WDI (workforce)
 - Town of Richford- SAM, Assemblyman Friend (highway equipment)
 - REAP- DOL, WORC – Workforce related.
 - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (historic register nomination)
 - Active
 - Village of Owego- RESTORE NY, Briggs/Award
 - Village of Owego- Downtown Revitalization Initiative
 - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (grandstand restoration)
 - Village of Waverly- NYS Parks, Waverly Glen Park
 - Village of Waverly- RESTORE NY, Twigg
 - Tioga County- Snowmobile Trails
 - REAP- USDA REDI, Strategic Planning (extended 1 year)
 - ❖ Cottage Industry Study (TOI/REAP/TEAM Tioga)
 - REAP- USDA, Public Well (equipment)
 - REAP- Tioga Downs, Workforce Pipeline Implementation
 - TCPDC- Enterprise Community Partners (land bank funds)- X2
 - Village of Owego- Main Street (CFA)
 - Midwestern Pet Foods (CFA)
 - Racker (CFA)
 - IDA- USDA RDBG, Multi-county Broadband Study

- IDA- USDA RBDG, Ag Value Chain Study
- Waverly Glen Park- Mildred Faulkner Truman
- NYS 2020 Census Count Outreach
- Completed
 - Village of Owego- Design Connect; design for Art Park

2020 Budget

- Economic Development- Proposed modification (10% reduction)- Discussed earlier.
- Planning- Tracking

Other

- Tinney vacation 8/31- 9/4 - Presently in quarantine for 14 days; working from home.

Resolutions – The following resolutions were presented and agreement was made to move them forward:

- 102-Amend Reso #77-20 Appropriation of Funds NYS Census Outreach Grant
- 105-Schedule Public Hearing Local Law Intro No. A of 2020 Hotel-Motel Tax
- 110-Adopt Owego Nichols Ag District Eight Year Review 2020
- 124-Tioga County Resolution Acquisition of 112 Liberty St May 2020

ADJOURNMENT – With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Linda Sampson
 Administrative Assistant to Economic Development & Planning