

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 6, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Barb Roberts, Keith Flesher, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell, Peter DeWind, Ellen Pratt

Guests: Becca Maffei, Tioga County Tourism, Christine Curtis, Industrial Development Agency (IDA)

Legislator Dale Weston was not in attendance. Due to a previous commitment, Committee Chair, Legislator Barb Roberts missed the beginning of the meeting.

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

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

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of January 2, 2024

Legislator Roberts asked for approval of the minutes from the January 2, 2024 committee meeting. Legislator Flesher made a motion to accept the January 2, 2024 minutes, seconded by Legislator Mullen. All were in favor.

II. FINANCIAL

A. 2024 Budget – Ms. Tinney 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 – Becca Maffei, Tourism Director; monthly report previously emailed. Ms. Maffei distributed an updated report and reviewed the DRI

Wayfinding Sign Project, Online Services Grant, Tioga Antique Trail Campaign, Finger Lakes Farm Country, Two Rivers State Park and Southern Tier Water Trail. Not on the report, Ms. Maffei reported:

- Two bicentennial anniversaries coming up; Barton and Nichols. Event planning has begun and Tourism will be providing support for these events in March.
- Planning has begun for the solar eclipse in April.

Ms. Tinney asked Ms. Maffei to speak on the I love NY changes and how it impacts Tourism. Ms. Maffei reported:

- Tourism supports events by subsidizing marketing budgets by 50% and they can no longer do that with I Love NY funds. The main restriction is that we can't promote single events. Ads must have multiple events in them. Ms. Maffei submitted an email saying we have some large stand-alone events, such as the Strawberry Festival or Lights on the River and asked if there could be an exception. She has not received a response yet.

2. Cornell Cooperative Extension – Monthly report previously emailed. Ms. Tinney reported her continued participation in the search for the CCE Executive Director position. It has been narrowed down to two applicants and they will be making presentations on February 21st in Hubbard Auditorium. This committee is invited to attend.
3. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – No report this month.
4. Economic Development – In keeping with staff reporting, Ms. Tinney introduced Christine Curtis, IDA Executive Director. Ms. Curtis reported the following:
 - Recommending a new member to the loan committee, Jim Lavo from Visions Credit Union.
 - Approval of a loan supporting Peyper Fields, LLC in Newark Valley for a glamping site project; partnered with Tioga State Bank on this project.

Grant applications:

- Larson Design Group study for a bridge repair impacting at least 8 homes with flooding in Richford; looking to cover design and cost for the repair.
- ARC grant supporting an engineering design plan and cost estimate for new speculative buildings constructed in Lounsbury at the Buck Road site. Will be seeking Board approval to apply for a Rural Business Development Grant supporting phase two of this plan for specifics to get bid ready.
- ESD Grant for supporting Raymond Hadley in Spencer. They are looking for options to increase their water capacity as they continue to grow. This study will outline the best solutions. A connection to the Van Etten municipal water system is one of the suggested options.
- Applied for USDA Local Meat Capacity Grant supporting Reed Brook Meats for \$250,000.00 worth of equipment requiring no match. Waiting on approval
- Soil and Water applied for a grant for a creek rehab on Blodgett Road. It is encroaching on an NYSEG pole as well as the railroad. Waiting on approval.
- Applied for a USDA IRP loan for \$299,999.00 in new loan funds to continue with our revolving small business loans.
- Dealt with homeless encampment trespassing issues north of Browns Lane in Owego, on the IDA owned railroad property. We had to get them evicted and

removed. ServPro came in to clean it up. The Police Department is watching the area to prevent further trespassing.

- Looking for approval from the Board on quotes to abate asbestos and demolish barns and silos on Buck Road to get land ready for future development.

Ms. Tinney reminded the committee that we have access to funding that other communities do not because of our REAP designation. Expressing the importance of supporting REAP.

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – Tioga County as applicant

- a. CDBG- Racker Neighborhood Depot- Assisting with paperwork. Ms. Woodburn and Ms. Schnabl continue making required monthly site visits. Project is moving along.
- b. Restore NY- River House Confectionery and Mercantile- Assisting with paperwork
- c. NYS Snowmobile- Countywide Phase I & Phase III- Updated agreement has been signed by all parties and has been added to Munis. Checks have been sent.
- d. NYPA- EV charging stations- Easement resolution is listed below. Dr. Pratt is present for any questions.
- e. Solid Waste Management Plan – Still pending approval.
- f. Restore NY- Tioga Trails- Working with the property owner; assisting with paperwork.
- g. FEMA- Hazard Mitigation Plan update- Internal review complete and will be posted for public comment. A second public hearing is scheduled this month.

2. Active Grants- (Tioga County is not applicant)- No assistance to municipalities or not-for-profits provided this month.

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Village of Owego- DRI projects are ongoing; starting to see some projects close to completion.
2. Village of Waverly
 - a. NY Forward – Proposed investment plan is with the State for review. Received an update from the Department of State that we may find out next month what projects will be funded.
3. REAP- Continue to explore USDA opportunities.
4. Updates being made to “available sites” on our website. Ms. Schnabl is working with Bryan Goodrich on the project.
5. Town of Nichols broadband build- This project is complete. Ms. Tinney reported this was a great project and announced there was a party to celebrate. Southern Tier Network has committed to continue with build outs for those they were not able to reach under the original plan. Seeking complete coverage in the Town of Nichols.

D. Land Bank

1. Ms. Woodburn attended the NY Rural Land Bank Board and Committee monthly meetings.

2. The Land Bank closed on 81 North Avenue and Ms. Woodburn is exploring plans for the property.

E. Planning

1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Talked about earlier.

F. Sustainability Management

1. Local Solid Waste Management Plan – Talked about earlier.
2. Municipalities- Electronic waste collection partnerships – Ms. Pratt has submitted a resolution for consideration listed below. Looking to change the term of the agreement from an annual agreement to a 5-year agreement.
3. Backyard compost bin program in partnership with Soil and Water - Over 30 bins sold so far, proving to be a very successful program.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Economic/Community Development

1. Presentations (1)

- a. WBNG interview- Ms. Tinney was interviewed regarding the Nichols broadband Project.

B. Land Bank

1. 2023 audit commencing.
2. Owego Apalachin Central School District- Liberty Street single family home design. Students will work on designing a residential home.
3. Temple/Liberty Street redevelopment project continues- Students working on construction of the residence.

C. Workforce Development – Mr. Lanning continues to work on:

1. Talent Supply Table- Meeting attended.

- a. Candor- Continuing to explore the Work Based Learning Program, similar to what Waverly has in place now.
- b. Spencer-VanEtten Work Based Learning Coordinator position- Decision should be made by spring.
- c. Newark Valley- Student workers program to expand 2025.
- d. Athens School District- Mr. Lanning, Ms. Tinney and Ms. Cole from Waverly met with Athens Personnel to share what we are doing regarding Education Workforce. As a result of the meeting, we were able to connect Athens with Tioga Center regarding a student's interest in welding. Ms. Tinney reported it was a good meeting.

2. School/Career Center Pilot Program- Moving forward; finalizing documents and introductory meetings held.

D. Planning- Ms. Jardine continues to work on:

1. 239 Reviews (2)

- a. 2024-001 Town of Tioga; Site Plan Review, (Gutami Group/solar) State Rt. 17C; recommended approval- however TCPB voted unanimously to recommend disapproval. Goes back to local municipality.
- b. 2024-002 Town of Tioga; Site Plan Review (Delaware River Solar) Glenmary Drive; recommended approval- however TCPB voted unanimously to recommend disapproval. Goes back to local municipality.

E. Sustainability Management

1. 2023 Year End numbers for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

a. Paid to Broome County

i. HHW= \$12,925.50

ii. E-Waste= \$6,000.05

b. Towns/County (EWaste)= \$679.68

Ms. Tinney reported going forward Dr. Pratt will bring a comparison of 2022 numbers to 2023 numbers to reflect the status as we go through the year.

F. IDA

1. Southern Tier Clean Tech Corridor Initiative – The IDA agreed to provide funding to participate in this study. Expecting kick off this month. There was buy in by all the counties in the Southern Tier Region. A very comprehensive plan is expected and is being led by Jamie Johnson out of Stueben County and Stacey Duncan out of Broome County.

G. Misc.

1. Broadband– Ms. Tinney reported working through the following challenges to continue to expand broadband to our rural areas:

a. Perm 75 – Prevailing wage.

b. NYSEG- New pole application fees.

V. PERSONNEL

A. Community Development Specialist backfill, Mr. Lanning, resolution listed below.

VI. RESOLUTIONS

B01-Set Public Hearing for 2024 Annual Agricultural District Inclusions

B06-Appoint EDP Community Development Specialist

B10-Filing of an application for State Assistance HHW for 2023

B14-Utility Easement with NYS Electric Gas and Tioga Co

B15-Reappoint Member (C DiStefano) to the Tioga County Local Development Corp Board

B24-Authorization to Enter Into a Five Yr Agreement with Municipalities to Accept Household Electronic Waste from Tioga Co Residents

B27-Reappoint Member (B Johnson) to the Tioga County Local Development Corp Board

B31-Set Public Hearing CDBG Microenterprise Grant

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

Legislator Roberts - yes

Legislator Flesher – yes

Legislator Mullen – 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