

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 8, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Barbara Roberts, Dale Weston, Ron Ciotoli, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell

Guests: Becca Maffei, Tioga County Tourism Director

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. Ms. Tinney reported the following:

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of January 4th, 2022

Ms. Tinney asked for approval of the minutes from the January 4, 2022 committee meeting. Legislator Weston made a motion to accept the January 4, 2022 minutes, seconded by Legislator Mullen. All were in favor.

II. FINANCIAL

The Year-to-Date Budget reports are in the committee packets; Ms. Tinney reported the following budgets are all tracking:

- A. Economic Development
- B. Planning
- C. Sustainability Management

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Reports – Ms. Tinney introduced Ms. Maffei.

1. Tioga County Tourism Director, Becca Maffei - Monthly report previously emailed. Ms. Maffei reviewed her report highlighting: DRI Wayfinding Sign Project, American Rescue Plan Act Funds, Tioga Arts Council 50th Anniversary Celebration, Recruitment Website, Agricultural Resource Group/Finger Lakes Farm Country, Events, ILNY Matching Funds Cooperative Marketing Program and Outdoor Promotion.

Ms. Tinney reported the following reports were previously emailed and are in the committee packet distributed:

2. Cornell Cooperative Extension

3. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District

B. Grants

1. Status – Ms. Tinney reported on the status of grants the ED&P Department is involved in:
 - a. Potential - 10
 - b. Pending - 10
 - c. Active - 27
 - d. Completed – 6
 - i. Village of Owego RESTORE – Of the 6 completed, Ms. Tinney is very pleased to report the Briggs and Awad building is complete.

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Village of Owego
 - a. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) - Administration is ongoing.
 - b. NY Main Street on North Avenue - Administration is ongoing.
 - c. RESTORE – As noted earlier, the Briggs and Awad project is complete.
2. Village of Waverly
 - a. RESTORE – Twigg Building; nearing completion
 - b. Mural Project- Working with the school and other parties on a gateway beautification project in Waverly.
3. Town of Nichols
 - a. Sweeper/Vacuum Truck; shared services grant – Truck ordered; waiting for it to come in. This is a shared project between the Village of Owego, Town of Owego, Tioga County and Village of Nichols; the truck is to be shared among the municipalities.
4. Village of Candor
 - a. NY Main Street – Project is ongoing; \$500,000 for restoration of public buildings on Main Street in Candor.
5. Municipalities
 - a. Visits - Ms. Tinney visited the Town of Nichols.
 - b. Snowmobile Grants – Ms. Ortu continues to work on this project impacting several of our municipalities.
6. Annual Breakfast
 - a. Date moved to Thursday, April 28th; hoping the impact of Covid keeps improving.
 - b. Location - Tioga Downs.

D. Land Bank

1. Temple & Liberty Street Properties
 - a. Demolitions should begin early February; any day now.
 - b. Village of Owego Local Approval Process continues – The Planning Board meets on February 22nd and the Zoning Board of Appeals meets on February 23rd; hopeful for approvals to move the Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services Project forward.
2. Owego Apalachin Central School District and the Land Bank are working together on the following:
 - a. Hooker Foundation funding application.

- b. Property Acquisition Project – The Land Bank will purchase a property and the school district will work with their students to rehab the property for resale to then be reinvested in another property.
- E. Workforce Development
 - 1. Workforce Pipeline Development Study- implementation
- F. Planning – Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
 - 1. Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA)- Summary may be final the end of the month.
 - 2. Tioga County Legislative Redistricting Plan – Provided assistance.
 - 3. Town of Richford; subdivision waiver request – Provided assistance.
- G. Sustainability Management
 - 1. Renewable Energy Best Practices Study – MRB Group hired to help with a study of best practices for municipalities to use when working with solar companies coming to the area.
- H. IDA
 - 1. Lounsberry Industrial Pocket – The IDA is working with a developer who wants to build 6 12,000 square foot light industrial, manufacturing-type buildings. Ms. Tinney expressed a need for this type of building in the region; hoping this project moves forward.
 - 2. Owego Gardens II – This project continues to move forward. Home Leasing is on schedule with building. They are anticipating being able to open up one group of town houses in May or June for people to move in.
- I. Misc.
 - 1. GIS mapping continues.
 - 2. GIS/IDA/EDP – Mapping project of available sites on our website for public use continues.
 - 3. Annual Ag Inclusion – There were no new properties added during the open enrollment period to the Ag District this year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Reports
- B. Grants
 - 1. 2021 CFA Awards received:
 - a. Tioga County Shared Technology Services - \$103,522.00 – IT expansion to the Village of Owego and Town of Candor.
 - b. Village of Owego Police Station Restoration - \$468,416.00.
 - c. Village of Waverly Economic Study on where to focus efforts for growth within the Village - \$25,000.00.
 - 2. CDBG CARES Act - This grant is now open to allow not-for-profits to apply through a municipality. A resolution will be coming in March looking for approval to apply. A public hearing will also be required on the following:
 - a. Tioga Opportunities - ED&P has been approached by Tioga Opportunities to apply on their behalf for CARES Act Funding.
 - b. Racker - ED&P has been approached by Racker to apply on their behalf for CARES Act Funding.

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Town of Nichols

a. Broadband

- i. USDA ReConnect Grant; Southern Tier Network (STN) - Applying for a USDA ReConnect Grant allowing for expansion of broadband fiber to unserved and underserved areas identified in the Town of Nichols. The Legislature previously approved \$750,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the purpose of expanding broadband. Of that amount, we are looking for up to \$300,000.00 to use for this particular project. Resolution for approval listed below.

2. Presentations – No presentations this month.

D. Land Bank

E. Workforce Development

1. Business Visits

- a. NYSEG – Met to discuss ongoing projects.

F. Planning

1. ST8 Board

- a. Legislator Roberts appointed to serve on the Southern Tier 8 Board.

2. Training

- a. NYSERDA- Renewable Energy – Ms. Jardine has put together a series of 5 trainings made available to our municipalities.

3. 239 Reviews (1)

- a. Town of Candor- 2022-001, Solar Energy Systems Site Plan Review, Delaware River Solar, 4.98 MW resulted in non-action. This will go back to the Town of Candor Planning Board without a recommendation.

G. Sustainability Management – Ms. Pratt is working on the following:

1. Senior Residents Hazardous Material Collection is being planned.
2. End Food Waste- Partnering with Public Health & CCE on this project.
3. Candor Land Fill
4. Tioga County Energy Action Plan – Exploring the possibility of a study. The state has put together an aggressive plan to move toward renewable energy. Requirements will be placed on residence and municipalities to meet that goal. The study would be proactive; looking into what this would involve and to provide guidance.

H. IDA

1. American Pride Solar - A solar panel manufacturing business looking at the Sanmina building; project is moving slowly.

I. Misc.

1. State Lead Responses – Provided property locations for the following leads:
 - a. Project Scroll
 - b. Project Electrode

V. PERSONNEL

A. Education Workforce Coordinator

1. Sean Lanning - Started employment on January 31st.

B. Part Time - OSII

1. This position remains vacant.

Not on the agenda, Ms. Tinney mentioned there is pending legislature in the state senate and assembly having to do with Perm 75; a recently enacted regulation that requires fees be paid for any municipality looking to extend broadband in any state-controlled right-of-way. The intent is to connect everybody to fiber, however enacting this Perm 75 prohibits this from happening. The Tioga County Legislature passed a resolution in 2021 that requested rescinding of the fees. Ms. Tinney distributed the following certified resolution: Resolution No. 73-21 Requesting the Rescinding of the New York State Fiber Right-of-Way Fee Ms. Tinney reached out to Assemblyman Friend and Senator Akshar to ask for their support of the Legislation that is out there now. Unless our legislature asks, Ms. Tinney will not put forward another resolution.

Also, not on the agenda, Legislator Weston mentioned that some of the local cemeteries are in poor condition and asked if there was funding to fixup or repair them. Ms. Tinney reported ED&P has not been involved in anything like this up to this point, but could look into what this might involve. Ms. Tinney suggested that the entity responsible could get in touch with our office and we could connect them with someone who may be able to provide assistance.

VI. RESOLUTION

- A. B28-American Rescue Plan Act Funds as Match for Southern Tier Network USDA Reconnect Grant

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

Legislator Roberts -	yes
Legislator Mullen -	yes
Legislator Weston -	yes
Legislator Ciotoli -	yes

Ms. Haskell asked Ms. Tinney what the timeframe was for the public hearing on the above mentioned resolution. Ms. Tinney mentioned it will be awhile as the date to submit the grant is February 22nd and is hoping to extend that deadline. Ms. Haskell asked Ms. Tinney to be aware that USDA has a 5-day limit on when the public hearing gets published in the newspaper and CDBG has a 7-day limit on when the public hearing gets published in the newspaper.

VII. PROCLAMATIONS- N/A

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Sampson
Administrative Assistant Economic Development & Planning