

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

August 17, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Planning & Economic Development Committee Vice-Chairman Gary Barnes.

Roll Call: G. Barnes, P. Curran, A. Cyr, G. Hanchett, D. Healy, J. Ricci, J. Ricketts-Swales, P. Stockin, (Absent: D. Root)

Other Attendees: T. Boyde, A. Carrow, S. Cicirello, C. Clark, K. Demick, B. Harris, S. Havey, K. Hooker, C. Jones, C. Knapp, T. Linn, B. Reynolds, B. Riehle, J. Rumpfelt, R. Sobeck-Lynch, R. Whitney

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the July 20, 2022, Planning & Economic Development Committee minutes.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Employment and Training Director Reita Sobeck-Lynch attended the meeting and submitted her monthly report to the committee for review. Mrs. Sobeck-Lynch stated that their office had been quiet, but they have been busy finishing up the Summer Youth Employment Program. Mrs. Sobeck-Lynch stated that they were able to extend a total of 35 weeks to several of the youth, with some working through the end of summer, and some that are not in school will be finishing up at the end of September. Mrs. Sobeck-Lynch stated that she had not found additional funding for veterans through the Department of Labor, but there is plenty of existing funding for training for our veterans. Mrs. Sobeck-Lynch noted a correction on her report that the hiring event would take place Thursday, August 25, 2022, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Sobeck-Lynch stated that Allegany ARC is looking for Direct Support Professionals that are now known as Life Coaches. Mrs. Sobeck Lynch stated that they now have 30 positions available in Allegany County. Committee Vice-Chairman Barnes stated that he would like to see the actual number of people employed now compared to last year. Mrs. Sobeck-Lynch stated that 18,100 people were employed in June 2021 and 18,800 people were employed in June 2022.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Director Kier Dirlam was unable to attend the meeting but had previously submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

Resolution for Contract with Carrie Materese Productions for Tourism Photo Library

Mr. Dirlam requested a resolution approving the Office of Planning to undertake the Allegany County Tourism Still Photo Library contract with Carrie Materese Productions for 2022 tourism work, not to exceed \$19,500. Mr. Dirlam also requested authorization for the County Administrator to sign the contract upon review and approval of its terms and conditions by the County Attorney. The funds are partially eligible for I Love NY funds. The total County share will be less than \$19,500. It was noted that a resolution is not required and the committee can authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Cyr, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried.

Resolution for Contract with Genesee Valley Media for Tourism Videos

Mr. Dirlam requested a resolution approving the Office of Planning to undertake the video work for tourism contract with Genesee Valley Media for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Dirlam also requested authorization for the County Administrator to sign the contract upon review and approval of its terms and conditions by the County Attorney. The funds are partially eligible for I Love NY funds. The total County share will be less than \$10,000. It was noted that a resolution is not required and the

committee can authorize the County Administrator to sign the contract. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Hanchett, seconded by Legislator Healy, and carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Allegany County Development and Industrial Development Agency Executive Director Craig Clark attended the meeting and submitted his monthly report to the committee for review.

Crossroads Project

Dr. Clark stated that he had talked to another interested hotel developer. Dr. Clark stated that CPL is close to completing all of the studies for the project and will be presenting them at the next IDA Board meeting. Dr. Clark stated that he is planning to have discussions at the next Amity Planning Board meeting on September 18, 2022. Committee Vice-Chairman Barnes asked if the project would be shovel-ready after CPL presents its studies to the IDA. Dr. Clark stated that having all of the studies completed is the first step to being shovel-ready, but they still need to go through a SEQR process and get the road constructed. Committee Vice-Chairman Barnes stated that by completing the studies, a developer could jump right into the project. Dr. Clark stated that was correct and that they would not have to wait 6 or 7 months to perform all of the required studies. Legislator Hanchett asked what Dr. Clark was planning to discuss at the Amity Planning Board meeting. Dr. Clark stated that he would be updating them on the status of the project.

Runnings

Dr. Clark stated that he talked with the CEO of Runnings that Monday, and they are ready to begin the first phase of remodeling with plans to be operational by next spring. Dr. Clark stated that they are planning to begin hiring employees this fall. Dr. Clark stated that they have a potential manager of the project that is from the area, but they have not made any decisions with that yet. Committee Vice-Chairman Barnes asked what exterior improvements are planned. Dr. Clark stated that he is not certain of the exact improvements to be made, but that the exterior should look like new when completed.

Clean Energy Projects

Dr. Clark stated that the large 100-megawatt solar project in the Town of Alfred continues. Dr. Clark stated that a new Solar Photo-voltaic power project in Alfred was approved for financial assistance.

Micro Enterprise Grant

Dr. Clark stated that the current Micro Enterprise Grant is nearing completion. Dr. Clark explained that once they have submitted the final paperwork, they will be able to apply for another grant. Dr. Clark stated that they are hoping to receive a \$300,000 grant for this year. Dr. Clark explained that this grant helps to fund startup companies or companies with 5 or fewer employees. Legislator Hanchett stated that she has heard this is a great program but is still looking for a list of businesses that received the initial distributions. Legislator Hanchett stated that having a list would help her answer questions she receives as to how the businesses are chosen to receive the funds. Dr. Clark stated that businesses are required to apply through ACCORD or take the Incubator Works training, and they need to submit a full business plan.

CDBG Cares Grant

Dr. Clark stated that the CDBG Cares Grant funding has been approved but we have not received any funding yet. Dr. Clark stated that it is a great program that helps fund small companies with 25 or fewer employees impacted by COVID-19.

Resolution Setting Date of Public Hearing on Adoption of Local Law Establishing the Office of Economic Development and the Economic Development Advisory Board of Allegany County

County Attorney Allison Carrow requested a resolution setting the date of a Public Hearing on the Adoption of a Local Law Establishing the Office of Economic Development and the Economic Development Advisory Board of Allegany County, and Repealing Local Law No. 2 of 1985, (As Amended by Local Law No. 1 of 1995, Local Law No. 1 of 2010, and Local Law No. 3 of 2021), for September 28, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at the Allegany County Board of Legislators' Chambers.

From 1985 until 2015, the Office of Development managed the County's planning and development activities. When a vacancy in the Director of Development occurred in 2015, the County adapted by reorganizing the functions of that office. Subsequently, the Office of Planning was created and the planning tasks were transferred to that office. The development functions that remained in the Office of Development have been outsourced since 2015 through contracts for economic development services: IOC Services, LLC (from October 2014 to December of 2017) and Alfred State College (from September of 2015 to current).

At this time, the County wishes to prioritize economic development by re-establishing and renaming the Office of Development as the Office of Economic Development and updating the duties of the office as they were written in 1985 to reflect the conditions and needs of our County as they exist in 2022. This is the first step in anticipation of rebuilding a County office focused on the County's economic development priorities. The next step will involve hiring a Director of Economic Development, which is already in progress, to coordinate the County's economic development efforts, realign County staff to support those efforts, and work with Alfred State College on a succession plan to transfer these efforts and knowledge gained under that relationship to County employees. The request was approved on a motion by Legislator Healy, seconded by Legislator Ricketts-Swales, and carried. **Prepare Resolution**

Attorney Client Session

Legislator Ricketts-Swales made a motion, which was seconded by Legislator Hanchett to enter into executive session for the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Editor of Allegany Hope Community News Casey Jones objected to the executive session on two grounds:

1. The motion being made for the executive session was too broad and not significant enough to identify the business that was being conducted
2. That the resolution being introduced is a one-year renewal of an agreement with the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred involving two governmental bodies, and as a result of that there should not be an executive session to discuss interchanges between governmental bodies

Legislator Cyr stated that he agreed with Mr. Jones and requested an attorney-client session to obtain County Attorney Carrow's opinion.

The committee entered into an attorney-client session at 2:29 p.m. Immediately following the discussion at 2:44 p.m. the committee came out of the attorney-client session and returned to the regular meeting.

County Attorney Carrow stated that prior to going into the Attorney-Client session, Mr. Jones came up to the podium and objected to the motion that had been made by some members of the committee that requested an executive session. Ms. Carrow stated there would be no response to the objection made by Mr. Jones because the Legislators that requested the executive session are withdrawing their request.

Resolution Approving a Renewal of Agreement with the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred

County Administrator Carissa Knapp requested a resolution to approve a one-year renewal of an agreement with the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred for the amount of \$55,000 to provide assistance for the development and implementation of an economic and industrial development program for Allegany County with an emphasis on attracting new businesses and industries to locate within the County and promoting the expansion of existing businesses and industries. Funds were previously budgeted in the 2022 Budget. Ms. Knapp stated that she had talked with Alfred State College President Steven Mauro, PhD. the previous evening, and he expressed that he was disappointed that his conversation was cut short this summer but would like to have another discussion regarding the terms of the agreement. Ms. Knapp stated that Dr. Mauro explained that the purpose of a shorter term was to facilitate discussions about the future. Legislator Healy made a motion to amend the agreement to a term of 60 days at a prorated amount to be negotiated, seconded by Legislator Hanchett, and carried. Legislator Hanchett stated that she had worked with SUNY Alfred for many years and that many of the taxpayers in District II are ready for a change. Legislator Hanchett stated that she will not vote for a longer term. Legislator Harris asked the County Attorney if there would be an opportunity to amend the agreement back to a longer term. County Attorney Carrow replied, "yes." The amended request was approved with a roll call vote of 5 Ayes, 3 Noes: A. Cyr, J. Ricci, P. Stockin, and 1 Absent: D. Root. **Refer to Ways & Means**

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. following a motion by Legislator Ricci, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Linn, Confidential Secretary
Allegany County Board of Legislators