

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PLANNING COMMITTEE

August 22, 2011

PRESENT:

**Richard Keaveney, Chairman
Jeffrey Braley
Patrick Grattan
Margaret Robertson
Arthur Baer
Robin Andrews
Edward Nabozny**

ABSENT:

Arthur Bassin

ALSO PRESENT:

**Becky Vinchiarello, Dep. Clerk
Ronald Caponera
Ann Cooper
Kenneth Flood
Ron Rouse**

Public: 2

Press: 1

Chairman R. Keaveney called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Tourism – A. Cooper

2012 Dining Guide – The last dining guide was published in 2009. After that they had attempted to combine it with the travel guide, which was not a popular idea. They would like to have it by itself again, and can cover the cost with advertising.

NYU Student Tourism Study- A women from Dutchess County is teaching a course on marketing on destinations. They have the opportunity to have NY students do a study on Columbia County They will study how effective the marketing in the County has been and it will enable them to evaluate the Counties marketing needs. The only cost would be travel. R. Caponera explained that a Conference Objective form would need to be filled out and submitted as this is travel, and falls under the County travel policy. Motion to approve by M. Robertson, seconded by E. Nabozny, motion carried.

Film Office Update – There has been a lot of film shooting going on around the County. Locations include the courthouse and Love Apple Farm. A Times Union article was being provided to the film industry.

Student & Youth Travel FAM Day – this is taking place Thursday. They will have lunch in Columbia County and a tour of the Martin Van Buren building.

Columbia County Fair – This is going on next week. Columbia County Tourism will have a booth.

The Chamber of Commerce brunch was discussed.

Transportation – K. Flood

Resolution Request - Approval of Extension of Contract for Bus Operations. K. Flood provided a copy of his budget pertaining to this. During the second quarter the city eliminated there bus which resulted in the County coordinating to do more frequent stops. This eventually resulted in the shopping shuttle and around a 600 passenger increase. The contract with Coxsackie Transport was bid out in 2009 and awarded in January 2010. There is a clause in the contract that gives the County the choice to extend the contract for up to two years. Coxsackie has been the only bidder for the past two bids. The bus company pays for general maintenance, while the County pays for all other costs. K. Flood said he would not like to change anything about the contract. The last safety inspection was July 16, 2010 and was outstanding in all audit recommendations. Motion to approve by M. Robertson, seconded by E. Nabozny, motion carried. Refer to Budget and Salary Review Committee, if approved, Refer to Finance.

Coordination with MAS and DSS-

K. Flood announced that DSS clients need to start utilizing public transportation more often. He is having a meeting with them to discuss this.

Healthcare Consortium – Ron Rouse

Overview of recommendations. A report was done on how to improve preventive and primary care facilities. The Consortium received a grant and put it towards the expense of this report.

R. Rouse handed out highlighted items from the report. Suggestions were made and discussion ensued. The committee requested that he bring this information to the Health/Medical Services Committee which he agreed to. It was suggested that he should discuss this with the chamber of commerce as well.

Agriculture – K. Flood

Farmland Protection Plan Update – They are still proceeding with this. Preparations are on their way. They are working off of the revised schedule and next year is the targeted time for adoption.

Economic Development – K. Flood

Capital Region Economic Development Council Update - The purpose is to help develop a strategic plan for the area and devise a consolidated funding application. It will result in one application to request funding for a particular project. Three projects are being discussed at this time. The Columbia County Airport, Ginsburg building a new facility, and the Catamount Resort. These three projects are immediate projects. Greene County's top project was the water park. The strategic plan will ultimately be to focus on technology and only technology. Ken will be signing up for the economic project subgroup.

Project Updates-

Greenport Crossing is preparing for demolition and has worked out State issues with asbestos cleanup.

They have attracted a Hudson Valley Creamery in Livingston.

Senior citizen Camp Hill Ghent is going well. They are creating jobs and providing something important to the County. The Valatie Senior Center is also on the books now. They are waiting on tax credit approval from the state to construct this.

Local Oceans has sold every fish they have grown.

Wind Power Company is focusing more on a software company. They have found a better prospect. He has asked for an update from them.

A. Baer requested statistics on the results of these local projects.

K. Flood announced that the 2012 major objective will be workforce development. They need quality businesses.

E. Nabozny questioned if the Economic Development Council had the power to block projects. He asked if they could veto plans that a town wants to take care of. K. Flood explained that they could as the projects endorsed by the council will have priority within the funding stream.

Planning – K. Flood

SEQRA Training Workshop September 21- at the college. Notices will be going in mailboxes soon. Patrice Perry is using an expert attorney. The target participants will be Town Planning Board members. All trainings usually have a waiting list. There is no cost to the County.

Discussion ensued on CDTA. Funding is calculated by a quarter point on the mortgage tax. M. Robertson announced she may write a letter to see if they can get CDTA out to New Lebanon with the new grocery store going in.

With no further business there was a motion to adjourn at 6:09 P.M by M. Robertson, seconded by E. Nabozny, motion carried.

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