

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**June 20, 2011**

**PRESENT:**

**Richard Keaveney, Chairman  
Edward Nabozny  
Arthur Bassin  
Margaret Robertson**

**NOTIFIED:**

**Arthur Baer- notified  
Patrick Grattan - notified  
Robin Andrews- notified  
Jeffrey Braley, notified**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Becky Vinchiarello, Deputy Clerk  
Ronald Caponera  
Kenneth Flood  
Ann Cooper  
Suzette Booy  
Jim Waterhouse  
Ed Simonsen  
Ellen Jouret - Epstein  
Kathy Schneider**

**Public: 4**

**Press: 1**

**The meeting began at 5:00 P.M.**

**Due to lack of quorum, this was an informational meeting.**

**Tourism –K. Flood & A. Cooper**

**A study in State Government shows that the State wants to change how tourism funding and promotion is done. They would like to centralize and charge fees. 1% of revenue would go to the State and be put in a general location. K. Flood said that this idea has not gone very far in the past. A. Cooper announced that the 2011 Travel Guide has been completed. It has been very well received. If Supervisors have proposed additions for next year, they can contact her.**

**The counties new Wedding Destination website is up and running. They will be putting out a press release regarding this.**

**In August the Department will be hosting tour operators, marketing agents for student travel. Columbia County Historical Society, the Tourism Department, and other town/village Historic Societies are putting together a Columbia County Heritage Trail map.**

**There will be an insertion of Columbia County in Horizon Travel Magazine and the Wall Street Journal. The County will also display an add on the NYC Jumbotron for July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.**

**Agriculture- J. Waterhouse**

**Farmland Protection Plan Development Update – Jim Waterhouse, Co-Chairman Farmland Protection Board.**

**They have reached the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment ( LESA) portion of the project.**

**A handout was given regarding LESA weights and scores.**

**J. Waterhouse announced that at this time the survey handed out is complete and they are graphing the results. They will share the information they have gathered with towns if it is requested. The committee announced that they think they are on the right track with the project. It was discussed if a category should be included that would show land that is good for grazing.**

**Transportation- K. Flood**

**What New York State Initiative for Medicaid Transportation Means to Public Transportation:**

**This will allow DSS to leave the transportation business for Medicaid patients.**

**Public Transportation is the priority for providing rides for patients with Medicaid. Other means of transportation will be available for emergency situations.**

**K. Flood explained the importance of counting Medicaid passengers as Medicaid passengers. If they are counted as regular passengers, the county will not receive the proper reimbursement. The drivers will be able to keep track of Medicaid passengers with lists they will be provided.**

**K. Flood then announced that the county's contract with Coxsackie Transport ends this year. He recommends that the county renew it if that is a possibility. They will then be able to collect data and more appropriately bid their routes.**

**Transportation Advisory Committee: K. Flood will be taking this over. He plans to have a meeting in a couple of months. The goal will be prioritizing projects in the county.**

**Geographic Information System (GIS) – Ed Simonsen, Ellen Jouret-Epstein, Kathy Schneider**  
**Proposal for Map Reading Capabilities for Communities – They would like the Board to apply for a grant to get this project started. They are requesting an entry level, basic, GIS system. They would have a training program for this and each town would have the option to designate one or two volunteers of which this map reading could be made available to.**

**The cost of this project, grants, and funding were discussed. The total cost is \$8,235.00. Half of this cost would be paid from the county and half would be matched.**

**Discussion ensued on how this system would be useful to the County. Examples given were mapping for farmland planning, emergency response planning, and mapping locations of outdoor wood boilers.**

**R. Keaveney announced that this information should be presented to the MIS Committee. September 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applying for the grant. K. Flood mentioned he is requesting funding through DOT for this.**

**Economic Development – K. Flood**

**Project Updates:**

**K. Flood announced that he met with the Flanders Company today. They are planning to hold a job fair mid July at the College. They have 200 applicants at this time. There was discussion of their suppliers relocating near them as well.**

**K. Flood also announced that the airport plan is in and he will be working on this with DPW. An update on the Slaughter House was given.**

**Planning – K. Flood**

**County Planning Board Appointment – Due to lack of quorum this will be presented at the Finance Committee.**

**Land Use Training Session June 22<sup>nd</sup> – This session is filled and there is a waiting list. They have received a great response.**

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