

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING April 4, 2023

ATTENDEES:

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

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

Guests: Wendy Walsh, Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Committee Chair, Legislator Barb Roberts, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

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

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of March 7, 2023

Legislator Roberts asked for approval of the minutes from the March 7, 2023 committee meeting. Legislator Flesher made a motion to accept the March 7, 2023 minutes, seconded by Legislator Weston. All were in favor.

II. FINANCIAL

The 2023 Year-to-Date Budget Reports were in the committee packets. Ms. Tinney reported the following:

A. Economic Development

- Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

B. Planning

- Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

C. Sustainability Management

- Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District, Wendy Walsh, District Manager – Monthly report previously emailed. Ms. Walsh reviewed her report, highlighting: Agriculture Program, Dean Creek Watershed Protection Project, Hazard Mitigation, Stormwater, Engineering Support, Stream Program, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and Envirothon. Ms. Walsh distributed Soil & Water's Annual Report.

Ms. Tinney mentioned that if Ms. Walsh was going to apply for any CFA funding to let her know as ESD Leadership likes to be aware of applications that are being submitted.

2. Tioga County Tourism: Becca Maffei – Monthly report previously emailed.
3. Cornell Cooperative Extension: T Hanson – No monthly report sent, however, Ms. Hanson sent a press release and a flyer regarding the Earth Day Celebration with CCE Tioga; both are in the committee meeting packet.
4. Economic Development: Dr. Ellen Pratt, Sustainability Manager - In keeping with staff reporting, Ms. Tinney introduced Dr. Pratt, monthly report previously emailed. Dr. Pratt reviewed her monthly report, highlighting various meetings and events attended as well as reporting on the following projects she is working on:
 - Borrow-a-Bin Program for special events.
 - Upgrading Sustainability /Recycling Website.
 - Reaching out to Towns for partnering with the County to include electronic waste collection in their clean-up events. So far, the towns of Nichols, Tioga, Richford and Newark Valley are participating.
 - Working with IT to create a link on the Sustainability/Recycling Website under Educational Programs raising awareness about recycling and waste reduction.
 - Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan.
 - Working on a Sustainability Plan RFP for Tioga County.

B. Grants – Ms. Tinney reported on the following active grants where Tioga County is the actual applicant and recipient of the grant funds:

1. Active Grants – Tioga County as applicant
 - a. CDBG- Racker Neighborhood Depot
 - Total Project Amount- \$7,933,000
 - Grant Amount- \$3,000,000
 - Tioga County Match- \$0
 - Match (other)- Racker
 - Admin Fee Collected- N/A
 - b. NY Main Street- Village of Owego, North Ave.
 - Total Project Amount- TBD
 - Grant Amount- \$250,000
 - Tioga County Match- \$0
 - Match (other)- Property Owners
 - Admin Fee Collected- \$18,750
 - c. Restore NY- Fuddy Duddy's
 - Total Project Amount- \$2,400,000
 - Grant Amount- \$1,800,000
 - Tioga County Match- \$0
 - Match (other)- Property Owner
 - Admin Fee Collected- N/A
 - d. NYS Snowmobile- Countywide (ongoing)
 - Total Project Amount- \$62,160
 - Grant Amount- \$62,160

- Tioga County Match- \$0
 Match (other)- \$0
 Admin Fee Collected- \$3,269.52
- e. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (update plan)
 Total Project Amount- \$100,000
 Grant Amount- \$90,000
 Tioga County Match- \$10,000/Emergency Management Services
 Match (other)- N/A
 Admin Fee Collected- N/A
- f. DOS Local Government Efficiency Grant – This grant is through the IT Department. Ms. Tinney reached out to Mr. Loveland with no response. Ms. Tinney will update this committee upon receiving information.
- g. ARC- Update Countywide Strategic Plan
 Total Project Amount- \$50,000
 Grant Amount- \$25,000
 Tioga County Match- \$25,000; the Legislature has agreed the match would come out of the County Contingency Fund.
 Match (other)- N/A
 Admin Fee Collected- N/A
- h. NY Power Authority (NYPA)- EV charging stations
 Total Project Amount- \$1,000,000
 Grant Amount- \$1,000,000
 Tioga County Match- \$0
 Match (other)- \$0
 Admin Fee Collected- N/A
- i. DEC- Household Hazardous Waste Program
 Total Project Amount- \$29,341.45
 Grant Amount- \$14,670.72
 Tioga County Match- \$14,670.73; will come out of the Sustainability budget
 Match (other)- \$0
 Admin Fee Collected- N/A

Legislative Chair Sauerbrey asked if ED&P writes grants for other entities. This question led to the following discussion and clarification regarding the new policy on grant procedures.

- Ms. Tinney stated Ms. Ortu is our Community Development Specialist and works closely with not-for-profits and our municipalities connecting resources. Oftentimes Ms. Ortu will provide assistance in putting a grant together. This is not anything the county is applying for. It is providing assistance to a municipality or a not-for-profit organization with the application process.
- Ms. Tinney read part of the new policy that said for every grant a resolution and application must be reviewed and approved by the County Attorney prior to Legislature adoption and before obtaining the Chair of the Legislature signature. Then asked for clarification whether the policy applies to Ms. Ortu's situation.

- Legislative Chair Sauerbrey responded that it is employee time; as an employee of the County this would have to go through the grant policy process and continued to explain that whatever an employee does, the County is involved. If Ms. Ortu is asked to assist on a grant that the County disagrees with, the County will voice disapproval. The Legislature wants to know what is going on, preferably before the application.
- County Attorney, Pete DeWind, added that if the employee has already gathered information for the grant, and then brings it forward for approval and is disapproved by the Legislature, the entity can move forward on their own with no more assistance provided by the County.
- Ms. Tinney mentioned timing can be an issue; a fast turnaround might be necessary. To have to go through this process might mean missing the window of opportunity. While the policy reads that a retroactive resolution is permissible, Department Heads are required to obtain Chair of the Legislature and Legislative Standing Committee Chair approval to proceed adding that this could make the timeline difficult to make.
- Legislative Chair responded that it's all about transparency.
- Ms. Tinney asked where the Land Bank falls in this process with Ms. Woodburn being a County employee as well as the Land Bank Director.
- Mr. DeWind responded that when Ms. Woodburn is doing Land Bank work that it would not have to go through the County process.

C. Economic/Community Development – Ms. Tinney reported on the following:

1. Village of Owego
 - a. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) administration – This project is ongoing; beginning to see projects come together.
 - b. Lt. Gov Delgado visit on March 30th – Meeting set up at the Tioga Arts Council; presentations were given on DRI projects as well as the NY Restore project with Fuddy Duddy's. It was a nice visit.
2. Village of Waverly
 - a. NY Forward
 - i. Working with the Department of State on creating the Local Planning Committee.
 - ii. Mr. Aronstam, the new Mayor, and Ms. Tinney will be the Co-Chairs appointed by the State. A consulting firm will be assigned within the next week or two.
3. Town of Nichols
 - a. Broadband update follows:
 - 159 homes installed.
 - 18 pending installations.
 - 620 homes that have had fiber available.
 - 30.7 miles of fiber installed.
 - \$5M in power upgrades (includes replacing poles and getting NYSEG to update and fix poles)
 - \$2.2M in actual fiber build-out.
 - Total of \$7.2M project in the Town of Nichols.

- Anticipated completion by end of May.
- Another public information meeting will be held to encourage people to get installation for free.

After this project is complete Southern Tier Network is going to start reaching out to internet service providers. Right now, they are primarily working with Fiber Spark having open access; any ISP can plug in at any time. This is good for competitive rates.

4. REAP – Meetings ongoing.
 5. Leadership Tioga- classes ongoing.
- D. Land Bank- Ms. Woodburn continues to work on the following:
1. Liberty Street discussions continue with a developer for a housing project.
 2. Accounting/Audit meetings held.
- E. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning continues to work on the following:
1. School-to-Work Mfg. Program.
 2. Talent Supply Table meetings and Sub-Committee meetings held.
- F. Planning – Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
1. Village of Owego Climate Smart Communities Taskforce.
 2. Countywide Strategic Plan- RFP proposals due April 4th; received 6 so far.
 3. Hazard Mitigation Plan- Contract has been signed, work has begun.
- G. Sustainability Management- Dr. Pratt continues to work on the following:
1. March E-Bulletin sent to Tioga County Employees.
 2. Wrapping up NYPA Site Host Agreement for the EV Charging stations – Mr. DeWind reported he was still waiting on the signed copy. Ms. Tinney will check on where that stands.
 3. Continuing work with municipalities on E-Waste events.
- H. IDA
1. Owego Square (Owego Gardens)
 - a. Occupants are moving into townhouses.
 - b. Open House will be held, more information to follow.
- Mr. DeWind reported he continues to work on the Belva Lockwood Road transfer from Home Leasing to the County.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Economic/Community Development
1. Village of Waverly- Working with a developer for a project for working family housing.
- B. Presentations- Ms. Tinney made the following presentations:
1. Waverly High School Future Business Leaders of America Student Program
 2. Lt. Gov Delgado visit- DRI project updates.
- C. Land Bank- Ms. Woodburn has applied for:
1. Land Bank Initiative- Phase 2 funding; request is pending.
- D. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning:
1. Exploring BOCES satellite campus.
 2. Coordinating School/Business Tours.
 3. Attended NYATEP Youth Conference in Saratoga Springs.

4. Attended Greater Valley Chamber Annual Dinner representing ED&P.

E. Planning

1. 239 Reviews (3)- Ms. Jardine presented to the Planning Board:
 - a. County Case 2023-005: Town of Owego, Site Plan Review (Upstate Shredding) recommendation for approval.
 - b. County Case 2023-006: Town of Owego, Special Use Permit (Bowden-Judson) recommendation for approval.
 - c. County Case 2023-007: Town of Owego, Special Use Permit (Bella's Boutique) recommendation for approval with conditions.

F. Sustainability Management- Dr. Pratt reported earlier:

1. Reducing Waste Education and Outreach; creating videos.
2. Working with Catholic Charities on food recovery program.
3. Working on Sustainability Plan RFP.
4. 2023 YTD
 - a. Paid to Broome County
 - i. HHW= \$0
 - ii. E-Waste= \$0
 - b. Towns (EWaste)= \$0

G. Misc.

Ms. Tinney inquired whether there has been any further discussion/clarification on the County policy regarding providing meals for trainings, meetings, etc.
Legislative Chair responded that it will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

V. PERSONNEL- N/A

VI. RESOLUTIONS

D01-Appoint member to County Planning Board (A. David)

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

Legislator Roberts – no
Legislator Mullen - yes
Legislator Weston – yes
Legislator Flesher – yes

D15-Accept ARC Grant and Create Accounts

D39-ARPA Neighborhood Depot Request for Funding

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

Legislator Roberts – yes
Legislator Mullen - yes
Legislator Weston – yes
Legislator Flesher – yes

VII. PROCLAMATIONS- N/A

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Sampson

Administrative Assistant Economic Development & Planning