

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING July 7, 2020

### **ATTENDEES:**

**Legislators:** Dale Weston, Ed Hollenbeck, Mike Roberts, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

**Staff:** LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson

**Guests:** None

Legislator Weston called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

- Approval of minutes from June 2, 2020 – Legislator Weston asked for approval of minutes from the June 2, 2020 committee meeting. Legislator Roberts made a motion to accept the June 2, 2020 minutes, seconded by Legislator Hollenbeck. All were in favor.

**TIOGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER:** Wendy Walsh was not in attendance; monthly report was previously emailed.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P):** LeeAnn Tinney– Agenda, attachments and highlights previously emailed. Following are the Director's Highlights:

**Meetings Attended** – Ms. Tinney reported continuing with Zoom meetings, however some meetings are beginning to be held in person.

- Southern Tier Network- Met to discuss the broadband study.
- Economic Development Organizations (Southern Tier)- Bi-weekly meeting attended.
- Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council- Met to discuss putting an economic recovery strategy plan together to be ready to access funding that might come up in the future.
- Congressman Reed updates
- Valley Economic Development Association (VEDA)- Attended monthly meeting in person.
- Local Development Corporation (Tourism)- Attended monthly meeting.
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce- Attended monthly meeting.
- Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association- Attended monthly meeting.
- Tioga Opportunities- Discuss a Cottage Industry Study.

- Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension- Participated in the interview process for the new Director, T Hanson.
- Leaders Meeting
- Municipal Visits- None this month.
- Business Visits
  - Home Leasing/Edgemere/Fagan Engineers- Met to discuss the OG2 Project.
- Presentations- None this month.

## Department Highlights

- COVID-19
  - Second survey- Approximately 78 responses; follow-up on businesses that asked for assistance.
  - Webpage postings- Keeping information updated as guidance comes in by the State.
  - Social Media
    - “Stay the Course” Campaign- Encouraging businesses stay within protocols put in place by the State.
    - “Welcome Back Tioga”- Tourism campaign; well received.
  - Tioga County Economic Recovery Advisory Council (TCERAC)
    - Sub Committee Sectors- Putting together an Economic Recovery Strategy Plan.
  - Unemployment rates as of a couple weeks ago:
    - State- 14.2%
    - Tioga County- 10.3%
- 2020 Census
  - Face masks distributed- Tioga Opportunities had available funds for masks. Ms. Jardine continues with this effort. Schedule has changed for people visiting homes to encourage 2020 Census response.
- Village of Owego
  - DRI- Continue to move forward; getting agreements in place.
  - NY Main Street- Projects moving forward.
  - Owego Gardens 2- Funding source, HFA, reached out to Edgemere/Home Leasing and asked them to accelerate application for review in October instead of December with the hope to close on funding in late September and begin construction in October. IDA was asked and agreed to clear the site before construction begins; hope to begin clearing in August.
- Land Bank – Ms. Saraceno continues to work on the following:
  - Additional grant funds awarded (\$560,000)
  - 6 properties sold.
  - 3 properties with executed purchase offers; pending closings.
  - Additional property acquisitions pending.
- RESTORE NY
  - Main Street Owego Project (A Briggs)- COVID relief funds used, \$60,000.00, to fill the gap while waiting on the funds from Department of Budget (DOB). Ms. Tinney thanked this Committee for their review and approval, adding that it saved the project.

- Waverly Project (D Twigg)- 2 progress payments made, 3<sup>rd</sup> payment has been requested.
- Community Development
  - Village of Owego Park video- Ms. Hendrickson and her husband put together a video regarding the history of the North Avenue property. History shows there was a pond there previously and because there was a geotech engineering test completed, this explains why we are not able to build on the site, leaving a park as the chosen option.
  - Non- Profit Activity- Ms. Hendrickson put out a press release regarding funding for Not for Profits. Ms. Hendrickson accepted applications and assisted in the funding process.
- Workforce
  - Phase II Implementation Strategy- Final DRAFT has been completed.
  - Implementation Phase- Utilizing the consulting firm to assist in moving into the next phase; connecting schools with our industries. Funding was secured through the Tioga Downs Foundation. This work will begin in the next couple of months. Eric Knolles has agreed to act as the school point person.
- Ag
  - 8 Year District Review (2 districts)
    - Owego/Nichols District- Public hearing on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 at the Owego Town Hall; resolution is listed below.
    - Spencer/Candor/Barton/Tioga- Public hearing coming soon.

Not on the agenda:

- Ag Value Chain Study- IDA acted as the applicant to USDA for funding for this study. Received confirmation this week that the request for funding was approved. Ms. Griffiths will be moving this project forward.
- Planning- Ms. Jardine is working on the following:
  - 239 Reviews- none for June
  - ST8 ARC reviews
  - Assisting Town of Nichols- Right to Farm signage
  - Assisting Town of Barton- Norfolk Southern RR crossing SEQR
  - Active Plans
    - REAP- Tioga County Code Enforcement Shared Services Feasibility; study summary in committee packet.
    - REAP- Tioga County Workforce Pipeline, Phase II
- Grants
  - Potential
    - REAP- USDA Community Facilities, Town of Richford- (water system)
    - REAP- USDA Community Facilities, Richford Fire Dept.- (fire station)
    - REAP- USDA, Village of Spencer- Raymond Hadley (equipment)
    - Owego Elks Lodge (TBD)
    - Town of Berkshire (TBD)- rec trail
    - Village of Newark Valley- USDA Community Facilities (equipment)

- Pending
  - Tioga County- Snowmobile
  - Town of Berkshire- DOT TAP funding (sidewalk extension)
  - Village of Owego- Rural Innovation Initiative (CPSI)
  - Owego Apalachin Central School District- WDI (workforce)
  - Town of Richford- SAM, Assemblyman Friend (highway equipment)
  - NYS 2020 Census Outreach Funding- Indefinitely postponed.
  - IDA- USDA RBDG, Multi-County Broadband Study – \$63,000.00 request approved.
  - IDA- USDA RBDG, Ag Value Chain Study – Approved.
  - USDA RDBG, North Avenue Revitalization Program – \$250,000.00 request not approved; under appeal.
  - Waverly Glen Park- Mildred Faulkner Truman
  - Northern Tioga Chamber- Community Foundation (facilities improvements)
- Active
  - Village of Owego- RESTORE NY, Briggs/Award
  - Village of Owego- Downtown Revitalization Initiative
  - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (grandstand restoration)
  - Village of Spencer- Nichols Park (historic register nomination)
  - Village of Waverly- NYS Parks, Waverly Glen Park
  - Village of Waverly- RESTORE NY, Twigg
  - Tioga County- Snowmobile Trails
  - REAP- USDA, Code Enforcement Shared Services Feasibility Study
  - REAP- USDA REDI, Strategic Planning (extended 1 year)
  - REAP- USDA, Workforce Pipeline Strategy Study- Phase 2
  - REAP- USDA, Public Well (equipment)
  - REAP- Tioga Downs, Workforce Pipeline Implementation
  - TCPDC- Enterprise Community Partners (land bank funds)- X2
  - Village of Owego- Design Connect (Art Park)
  - Village of Owego- Main Street (CFA)
  - Midwestern Pet Foods (CFA)
  - Racker (CFA)
- Completed- None at this time.

Not on the agenda- Ms. Tinney reported inquiries have started to come in to the department that are non-COVID related.

- Potential housing projects
- 2020 Budget
  - Economic Development- tracking
  - Planning- tracking

Received 2021 Budget Plan from Mr. Bailey and will begin working on this week.

**Other**

- North Ave. Park Video (8 minutes, 53 seconds) – Unable to show; screen not available

**Resolutions-** The following resolutions were presented and agreement was made to move them forward:

G01-Re-Appoint Member (L. Engelbert) to the TCLDC Board

G02-Resolution Authorizing Extension of the TCPDC Administrative Services Agreement to June 30 2021

G09-Set Public Hearing for Owego Nichols Agricultural District Eight-Year Review

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further topics of discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Sampson

Administrative Assistant to Economic Development & Planning