

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING March 5, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Legislators: Barb Roberts, Keith Flesher, Dennis Mullen, Ron Ciotoli, Marte Sauerbrey

Staff: LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell, Sean Lanning

Guests: Lisa Weston-Bialy, Tioga County Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

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

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

I. MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes of February 6, 2024

Legislator Roberts asked for approval of the minutes from the February 6, 2024 committee meeting. Legislator Flesher made a motion to accept the February 6, 2024 minutes, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. All were in favor.

II. FINANCIAL

A. 2024 Budget – Ms. Tinney reported the following:

1. Economic Development
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
2. Planning
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.
3. Sustainability Management
 - Year-to-Date Budget is tracking.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Reports

1. Tioga County CCE – Lisa Weston-Bialy, CCE Workforce Coordinator, was in attendance for Kevin Jordan, Interim Executive Director. Ms. Weston-Bialy asked the committee how to advise the new Executive Director regarding monthly reports. The committee was in agreement to report on all things going on in the department, not to focus on one project or activity. Ms. Weston-Bialy distributed her monthly report, highlighting 4-H Youth Development, Family Resource Centers, Hilltop Community Farm, Beginning Farmer Incubator Program, Master Gardeners,

and staff updates. Ms. Weston-Bialy reported second interviews were held for the new Executive Director and there are two final candidates.

Before moving forward, Ms. Tinney welcomed and thanked Legislator Ciotoli for joining our committee.

2. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – No report this month.
3. Tioga County Tourism – Monthly report previously emailed and is in the committee packet.
4. Economic Development – In keeping with staff reporting, Ms. Tinney introduced Sean Lanning, Community Development Specialist. Mr. Lanning reported the following:
 - Started a new position within ED&P last week, Community Development Specialist, adding that this report will be mainly focused on Education Workforce.
 - Attended Talent Supply Umbrella Committee Meetings (School District Superintendents and BOCES Principals) regarding a Teacher Apprenticeship Program to help schools navigate apprenticeships for teachers and student worker enrichment.
 - Attended Program Coordinator Meetings (Guidance Counselors and Work-based Learning Coordinators) visiting Tioga County businesses making schools aware of businesses and opportunities.

Projects working on:

- Career Center Partnership – Apprenticeship with Spencer and Waverly. Steve Keator from the Career Center will be going into schools one day a week to provide job search/placement services. This project is beginning this month and running through June. If successful they will include more schools.
- OA CTE and BT BOCES – Satellite Campus; Matt Sheehan, BOCES Principal, presented at the Intergovernmental Talent Supply Meeting in January and explained the plans to rent out the maintenance building on the Owego Campus for students from Owego-Apalachin, Newark Valley, Tioga, Vestal, Union-Endicott Schools to attend BOCES classes on the Owego Campus. Seven programs will be available by Fall of 2025. They plan to roll out the Adult Education program next year.
- Tours have been set up at Crown Cork and Seal, and Best Buy.

Community Development Specialist:

- Learning about available grants
- Continue working on Snowmobile Club Grant
- Working on Annual Report for the EDP Department
- Meeting with a Binghamton University Public Administration student looking to be an intern; working on details to present next month.

Ms. Tinney continued to report the following:

B. Grants

1. Active Grants – Tioga County as applicant

- a. CDBG- Racker Neighborhood Depot- This project is moving forward; the weather has made it possible for construction to continue through the winter.
 - b. Restore NY- River House Confectionery and Mercantile
 - i. Assisting with paperwork continues.
 - c. NYS Snowmobile- Countywide Phase I & Phase III- Mr. Lanning mentioned continuing to work on this grant in his report.
 - d. NYPA- EV charging stations- Planning meeting held on February 21st; Dr. Pratt continues to work on this project.
 - e. Solid Waste Management plan- Continues to be under review by DEC.
 - f. Restore NY- Tioga Trails
 - i. Continue assisting the property owner with paperwork; waiting on architectural drawings.
 - g. FEMA- Hazard Mitigation Plan update
 - i. Second public meeting held on February 13th.
 - ii. Final version incorporating public comments to be submitted to FEMA and NY DHSES for review.
2. Active Grants- (Tioga County is not applicant)- None at this time.

Ms. Tinney reported we are entering grant season. The State will be offering the Restore Program again this year. This program is one of our best tools because it is not geared toward big developments, but smaller rural communities.

Ms. Woodburn and Ms. Schnabl are exploring an application on behalf of the Land Bank for the Liberty and Temple Street project. They also have met with the Village of Newark Valley for a potential application by the Village of Newark Valley for a couple of projects in Newark Valley.

A letter of intent to apply is due by March 25th. This is not a commitment; it just says we are looking to see if a project is eligible for funding. The application is due by the end of May. If a project is found eligible, and the County is going to be the applicant, we would be presenting a resolution looking for permission to apply in May.

- C. Economic/Community Development – Ms. Tinney reported just before this meeting she received a phone call from Town Supervisor, Mr. Castellucci, asking for a resolution to be passed this month on the Farmer Brown Solar Project. Ms. Tinney received the proposed PILOT Agreement and has forwarded the draft on to Legislative Chair, Ms. Sauerbrey, Committee Chair, Ms. Roberts, and Mr. DeWind, County Attorney. The final PILOT is between the Solar Company, the County and the Town. They are proposing: 7000 per megawatt, 2% annual escalation to be divided 50/50 between the Town and the County and the Solar Company will negotiate with the school separately. Ms. Tinney would like to get a resolution through this month and asked if it can be written immediately following this meeting to be presented in Worksession. Ms. Haskell agreed to putting Ms. Tinney on the agenda to present at Worksession.
- 1. Village of Owego- DRI ongoing – Some projects are getting close to completion.

2. Village of Waverly
 - a. NY Forward– Continue to wait to hear from the State on what projects will be funded.
 3. Broadband- Southern Tier Network is exploring additional funding from the State to continue Broadband build out in Tioga County. Ms. Tinney has asked if the application has been completed and where in Tioga County are they looking to expand. No response yet. No match from the County is needed.
- D. Land Bank
1. Ms. Woodburn has attended the NY Rural Land Bank Board and Committee monthly meetings.
 2. 81 North Avenue Project– Building clean out has started.
- E. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning reported earlier.
- F. Planning- Ms. Jardine continues to work on the following:
1. NYS Department of Ag & Markets Land Trusts Outreach Grant Program- American Farmland Trust application (\$50,000)- Provided input to Ms. Walsh.
 2. Countywide Strategic Plan- Final ARC grant paperwork submitted.
 3. Annual Ag District Inclusions- Resolution listed below to adopt the 2024 District inclusion; two property requests.
- G. Sustainability Management- Dr. Pratt continues to work on the following:
1. Backyard compost bin program in partnership with Soil and Water- Program continues to be a success; 47 bins sold.
 2. Private Hauler Permits- Three of the five private haulers in Tioga County have applied and been approved; working on contacting the other two.
 3. Municipal Electronic Waste Program- Towns of Richford, Tioga, and Owego have responded and are interested in partnering in 2024.
- H. IDA
1. Southern Tier Clean Tech Corridor Study- The IDA contributed to this study partnering with all counties in the Southern Tier region. This project should begin in the next couple of weeks.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Economic/Community Development
1. Presentations
 - a. Lt. Governor Delgado visit to Owego Donuts & Beer on February 28th celebrating the completion of this DRI Project. This was a great event, well attended.
- B. Land Bank
1. 2023 audit ongoing
 2. Temple/Liberty Street project- Contracted with Fagan Engineers for a conceptual development plan on Temple and Liberty Street to include single family type development.
- C. Workforce Development- Mr. Lanning reported on projects he is working on earlier, however Ms. Tinney added that Mr. Lanning attended the Business Leads Fellowship Program in Washington DC. This trip was funded by way of the Hooker Foundation. He is now going to participate in the Speaker Series; presently focusing on the COVID 19 learning loss.

D. Planning – Ms. Jardine is working on the following:

1. 239 Reviews
 - a. 2024-003 Town of Nichols; Comprehensive Plan Adoption, (Town of Nichols); recommended approval- however TCPB voted unanimously to recommend disapproval; the plan needs to be updated.
 - b. 2024-004 Town of Owego; Site Plan Review, Floodplain Special Use Permit, Parking Area Variances (Aldi of Owego) Rt. 17C; recommended approval- TCPB voted unanimously to recommend approval.
2. ST8 proposed increases to annual dues- Ms. Tinney reported Southern Tier 8 has passed a resolution to increase membership dues for partners in 2025 and 2026. Paid dues for 2024 was \$16,000.00, the increase for 2025 and 2026 follows:
 - a. 2025- \$16,240
 - b. 2026- \$16,484

This change will be reflected in Planning's budget for 2024 and 2025.

E. Sustainability Management

1. 2024 YTD
 - a. Paid to Broome County

	2024	2023
i. HHW=	\$0	\$12,925.50
ii. E-Waste=	\$0	\$6,000.05
b. Towns/County(EWaste)=	\$0	\$ 679.68

F. IDA

1. Lounsberry Study
 - a. Barn demolition is complete. The IDA has contracted with Hunt Engineering; looking for the best way to develop this site. Ms. Woodburn assisted on an IDA application to look at how to extend existing infrastructure to the site.
2. Spencer/VanEtten water study is moving forward. Anticipated timeframe for study completion is in April.
3. Richford Railroad study- Possible completion date in April; looking for bridge repair and how to alleviate flooding.
4. USDA application(s)- Ms. Woodburn has assisted the IDA with applications for USDA funds for the following:
 - a. Business Equipment Purchase Program
 - b. Equipment Lease ProgramFollowing is the process:
 - The IDA would purchase the equipment.
 - The business would rent the equipment from the IDA for a nominal amount.
 - At the end of the lease agreement the IDA will sell the equipment to the business.

This is a way for businesses to finance the purchase of the new equipment. The total cost is recovered. There is the possibility of an administrative fee through the grant.

V. PERSONNEL

Legislator Ciotoli made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:45 PM. Legislator Flesher seconded the motion. All were on favor.

Legislator Mullen made a motion to close Executive Session at 1:55 PM, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. All were in favor.

VI. RESOLUTIONS

- C07-Authorize 2024 Requests for Inclusion of Land in Agricultural Districts
- C08-Authorize to Temporarily Fund Economic Development Specialist Position
- C09-Authorize Transfer of Funds for Purchase of Laptop and Docking Station for EDP Dept

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

- Legislator Roberts - yes
- Legislator Flesher – yes
- Legislator Mullen – yes
- Legislator Ciotoli - 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