

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING TOURISM/AGRICULTURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING March 8, 2022

### **ATTENDEES:**

**Legislators:** Barbara Roberts, Dale Weston, Ron Ciotoli, Dennis Mullen, Marte Sauerbrey

**Staff:** LeeAnn Tinney, Linda Sampson, Cathy Haskell, Peter DeWind

**Guests:** T Hanson, Cornell Cooperative Extension

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (ED&P): LeeAnn Tinney** – Agenda and attachments previously emailed.

### **I. MINUTES**

A. Approval of minutes of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Committee Chair, Legislator Roberts, asked for approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2022 committee meeting. Legislator Weston made a motion to accept the February 8, 2022 minutes, seconded by Legislator Mullen. All were in favor.

### **II. FINANCIAL**

The Year-to-Date Budget Reports are in the committee packets; Ms. Tinney reported the following budgets are all tracking:

- A. Economic Development
- B. Planning
- C. Sustainability Management

There was confusion regarding the date on two of the Year-to-Date Budget Reports. The month of the report needs to be updated before running the report. This will be corrected next month.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Reports – Ms. Tinney introduced Ms. Hanson.

- 1. Cornell Cooperative Extension, T Hanson - Monthly report previously emailed. Ms. Hanson reviewed her report highlighting: 4-H & Youth Development, Strengthening ties for Youth in Agriculture across Tioga County and Other Community Engagements. Ms. Hanson announced hiring Bobbie Kuhlman as the new 4-H Youth Educator.

Ms. Tinney reported the following reports were previously emailed and are in the committee packet distributed:

2. Tioga County Tourism
3. Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District – No report this month.

B. Grants

1. Status – Ms. Tinney reported on the status of grants the ED&P Department is involved in:
  - a. Potential - 14
  - b. Pending - 12
  - c. Active - 32
  - d. Completed – 0

C. Economic/Community Development

1. Village of Owego – The following projects are ongoing:
  - a. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) administration
  - b. NY Main Street (North Ave.) administration
2. Village of Waverly
  - a. RESTORE- Twigg – Waiting for final paperwork from the State.
  - b. Mural Project – Waverly Central School students submitted designs for the gateway beautification project that will be located at the railroad viaduct.
3. Town of Nichols
  - a. Sweeper/Vacuum Truck; shared services – Ordered; waiting for it to come in.
  - b. Broadband
    - i. USDA ReConnect Grant/STN – Grant application is due Wednesday morning. Southern Tier Network (STN) is the applicant; ED&P is providing assistance for broadband build out for unserved and underserved areas in the Town of Nichols. A portion of the ARPA funds that is designated for broadband expansion will be used for this project. The funding identified is 75% grant with a 25% match required. An agreement was made to split the match with the County and the Town; both are contributing a little over \$270,000.00 to make the application. The ARPA funds left that are designated for broadband will be used for other communities. When asked how locations were determined for expansion, Ms. Tinney explained that areas were defined in the Fujitsu Study. A year ago, the IDA paid for and partnered with STN to conduct a study with Fujitsu to determine where unserved and underserved communities were in Tioga County. Mr. Loveland, ITCS, will also provide input.
4. Village of Candor
  - a. NY Main Street administration – \$500,000.00 award to restore Main Street; construction has begun.
5. Municipalities
  - a. Visit the Town of Nichols
  - b. Snowmobile Grants - Ongoing
6. Annual Breakfast
  - a. Date moved to Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Location - Tioga Downs

#### D. Land Bank

1. Temple & Liberty Street
  - a. Demolitions – Mid March; waiting on the contractors to move forward.
  - b. Village of Owego Local Approval Process - Still pending; continue to work on.
2. Owego Apalachin Central School District Project – The Land Bank is partnering with the school on the purchase of a house that needs renovation. This will be a teaching tool for the students; they will be doing the renovating. When the project is complete the house will be sold for reinvestment in another property. There was a short discussion on how the Land Bank was established, its history and how it is separate from the County.

#### E. Workforce Development

1. Workforce Pipeline Development Study- Mr. Lanning has begun implementation; making a connection with the Ag program.

#### F. Planning

1. Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) - Summary is near completion. When asked what the municipalities are doing, Ms. Tinney reported Ms. Jardine has offered guidance to the municipalities and is tracking this information. Ms. Tinney will get those opt-in/opt-out results to the committee.
2. Training – Ms. Jardine and Ms. Pratt are working on the following trainings available to the municipalities:
  - a. NYSERDA - Renewable Energy; 2 of the 5 trainings are complete. They have been well attended.

#### G. Sustainability Management

1. Renewable Energy Best Practices Study – This project continues to move forward.
2. Ms. Pratt is working in partnership with Public Health and CCE on the End Food Waste Program.
  - a. Working with CCE, Ms. Pratt is seeking funding for Composting Program equipment.
3. Tioga County Energy Action Plan – Looking for funding to move forward with this plan.

#### H. IDA

1. Lounsberry Industrial Pocket – Working with a developer to build a 5 or 6 light manufacturing spec space; this project is moving forward.
2. Owego Gardens II – This project is moving forward.
3. SunEast PILOT negotiations continue; IDA is standing firm with \$10,000.00 per megawatt.

#### I. Misc.

1. GIS Mapping
2. GIS/IDA/EDP - Site Mapping is ready for release. Maps of available industrial and commercial sites in Tioga County are located on the ED&P and IDA website; making them available to the public. A press release will be going out soon.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Grants – Funds are available to not-for-profits, ED&P approached for County to act as the applicant for the following:

1. Tioga Opportunities- CDBG CARES Act; resolution for authorization to apply listed below.
2. Racker Center- CDBG CARES Act; resolution for authorization to apply listed below.
- B. Economic/Community Development
  1. Presentations – No presentations this month.
- C. Land Bank – Ms. Woodburn attended the following:
  1. Rural Land Bank Committee and Regular Meeting
- D. Workforce Development – Mr. Lanning has begun making connections with school districts and BOCES.
- E. Planning
  1. 239 Reviews (2)
    - a. 2022-002 Town of Owego, Special Use Permit- Farmer Brown Solar; recommended approval
    - b. 2022-003 Town of Owego, Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit and Area Variance- Centerline Communications; recommended approval
- F. Sustainability Management – Ms. Pratt is working on the following:
  1. Electronic Waste drop off within Tioga County
  2. Funding for EV charging stations for interested parties
- G. Misc.
  1. State Lead Responses – None this month.

**V. PERSONNEL**

- A. PT- OSII
  1. This position remains vacant.

**VI. RESOLUTIONS**

- A. C02-Authorize Submission of FEMA HMP Update Grant Application
- B. C22-Re-Appoint Member (J Ward) to the TCLDC Board
- C. C23-Re-Appoint Member (M Kiechle) to the TCLDC Board
- D. C24-Authorization for EDP to Submit Grant Application to CDBG-CV Cares Act Program for Racker
- E. C25-Resolution to Schedule Public Hearing NYS CDBG-CV for Racker Project
- F. C26-Authorization for EDP to Submit Grant Application to CDBG-CV Cares Act for Tioga Opportunities
- G. C27-Resolution to Schedule Public Hearing CDBG-CV for TOI Project
- H. C30-Filing of an Application for State Grant

After reviewing the 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 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