

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

December 11, 2019, 6:00 pm, Room 331

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Odell, Chagnon, Proctor

Member Absent: O'Connell, Starks

Others: Tampio, Ames, McCoy, Dennison, Keller, Hemmer, McCord

Chairman Odell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (11/13/19)

MOVED by Legislator Proctor, SECONDED by Legislator Chagnon.

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Odell: Let the record show that we are down two but still have a quorum this evening.

Privilege of the Floor

No one chose to speak at this time.

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment and Re-Appointment – Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board

Chairman Odell: Two familiar names extending but that is correct for one year then, for both?

Ms. Keller: I believe the terms (*inaudible*).....

Chairman Odell: O.k., perfect. Any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Re-Appointments – Chautauqua County Planning Board

Chairman Odell: We did discern the dates on this one for Jeff Gossett, Richard Ketcham, and Bruno Bruni, we can treat those as typos for the term expirations. They will actually be

December 31, 2022. They are good appointments and we are grateful for their volunteer service and guidance. Any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Use of Chautauqua County 2% Occupancy Tax Undesignated Off-Cycle Project Funds to Remove Debris from Bemus Creek

Mr. McCoy: Things happen and because of that we have a little carve out at a 2% program for undesignated off-cycle projects. Mother Nature throws us curves from time to time and we use this money to be able to deal with those emergencies as they come up and this is one of those. There have been a number of big trees that have collapsed into Bemus Creek and it's created quite a jam and they have the potential to cause flooding, impact our transportation infrastructure because they are upstream of several bridges and it's less expensive to get them out of the water when they are in Bemus Creek than when they are in Chautauqua Lake. So therefore we would like to go in and get those out.

Legislator Chagnon: And Soil and Water is ready and willing to do the actions.

Mr. McCoy: Of course.

Chairman Odell: Nimble enough and in a good position to be able to do that cost effectively and expeditiously.

Mr. McCoy: Right.

Chairman Odell: Any other questions? Good project, good place to do it. All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution - Provide Funding to the Chautauqua Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Agency (CLPRA) for Outreach and Engagement Services

Mr. McCord: In October of 2018, the Lake Agency began to meet and the purpose of that really in the beginning was to inform the agency of what the charge was, to get people organized. We called in experts, we brought in data for the agency over this time. We've had a wide variety of meetings but they really have been with agency members at the table discussing different methods and different data, different approaches and what they have heard on the street a little bit. However, at our October meeting, we had quite a few citizens show up primarily from the south basin and then at our November meeting we had standing room only in a room like this. We had discussed after the October meeting that there seemed to be an outcry that people wanted to have a voice in the formation of this district. We really thought that it would be good to give the public a voice to voice their concerns but also to learn about what the committee had done over the past year and what it had accomplished and what the status was. I think one of the biggest challenges is lack of information can quite often lead to problems because things people are discussing things that may not be factual. So, Highland Planning is a firm that specializes in

this and we really think that it is important at this stage to have a well-designed public process. This is a very controversial subject as any taxing district would be and therefore we really think bringing in outside experts that specializes in doing public participation for difficult projects like this will be beneficial in the long run. I think that it will be money well invested if we slow the process down because we haven't done this public outreach in allowing the public to have a voice and we just continue to have this dialogue that is a little more heated than we would like it to be. It will just take more staff hours and more resources in time so I think this is a balance. We are investing in an outside firm, however the offset is, we would have to devote a lot more staff time to this otherwise.

Chairman Odell: Plus, this is their expertise.

Mr. McCord: Right.

Legislator Chagnon: Plus, this is something that the agency board members have requested is help and guidance in public outreach component of what we understand our charges to be. The proposal that Don crafted with Highland Planning is an excellent proposal. Don worked with them back and forth to get them to focus on what we believe our needs are and helping them develop a proposal that met those needs very effectively. So, Don, I want to personally thank you for your work in putting this proposal together and bringing this proposal to us. The agency members reviewed this, discussed this and unanimously approved moving forward with this approach.

Chairman Odell: Makes sense, especially in uncharted waters like this. The foundation that is being built here is of importance so we can hang our hat on everything that is done. Any questions?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Proposed Motion - In Support of an Increased State Support for Cornell Cooperative Extension County Associations in the State of New York

Legislator Hemmer: Emily Reynolds, the Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension came to me and asked that we introduce this motion to support the increase by New York State with the 224 funding. As you know, the 224 funding is a big part of what keeps Cornell running and I think that Cornell does a great service to the taxpayers of Chautauqua County and of course the whole State. So, I would like to encourage some additional funding coming from the State and this will be a good place for it.

Chairman Odell: One thing that did stick out was the \$8 million but what, to \$8 million that's still –

Legislator Chagnon: That is what jumped out at me is it says, we're encouraging the State to increase its appropriation to the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations across the whole

State to \$8 million dollars. First I read it and thought oh, but increase it by \$8 million dollars, no, increase it to \$8 million? So they give something less than \$8 million dollars a year to all the Cooperative Extensions Association across the State? I was staggered by that. We really want them to increase it all the way up to \$8 million dollars.

Legislator Proctor: What is it at now?

Legislator Hemmer: I really don't know.

Chairman Odell: Probably far less than \$8 million. I think we're all in agreement that we definitely support this motion. That's why we wanted to have you here tonight by all means. Thank you for coming.

Legislator Hemmer: Thank you for supporting it. It would be a great thing to have more support.

Legislator Chagnon: Right and it's not like we're asking for a billion dollars or anything. A couple of million dollars more across the whole State.

Legislator Hemmer: Yea, I'm sure that the State throws away a lot more than that.

Chairman Odell: You think of one school project in the County, a capital project is usually way more than that just for one little dinky school.

Legislator Chagnon: And for all the good that Cornell Cooperative Extensions across the State do, it's a small thing to ask. I am more than fully in support of this.

Chairman Odell: We're going to give Senator Borrello a heads up on that and he's in full agreement so he'll be looking forward to receiving this motion.

Legislator Chagnon: Thanks for bringing that forward.

Other

Chairman Odell: Anything else to come up under "other"? This is probably one of our shortest meetings.

Legislator Chagnon: Mr. Chairman, it's a little bit ironic that this is the last meeting of the year but what we've been reading about in the newspapers over the last month regarding economic developments in the County have not been encouraging with the plant closing of Lakeshore Health facility and now the closing of the Castelli Cheese facility. I was hopeful that someone could be here to give us some additional perspective on that other than what we read in the newspaper but apparently we don't have that opportunity.

Chairman Odell: Not this evening but (*inaudible*) setbacks despite all the good work that has been done and the wins we've seen, these are new to big losses coming.

Legislator Chagnon: And with the Castelli Cheese situation, I certainly understand that's of action involving a very large international cheese company who is being purchased by a larger international cheese company. So there are large forces at work here that are far beyond Chautauqua County but, it's simply disquieting not knowing what the intensions are for that beautiful facility that we have in the Town of Harmony.

Chairman Odell: Especially with all the infrastructure and upgrades that they put in over the last several years.

Legislator Chagnon: It's a fabulous facility. If you haven't been in there, it's just a beautiful facility.

Chairman Odell: Especially on the IDA front, having a little bit of skin in the game in that as well and we'll be monitoring that closely but, like you said, its large foreign entities that are not thinking. Just like in the dollars and cents right now which may or may not make sense when it pans out but that is their quick kneejerk reaction.

Legislator Chagnon: The company that is purchasing Castelli which is the French company, (*cross talk*), they have a facility in Buffalo that is currently and has been making the same cheeses as manufactured in the Castelli plant. So, you could understand if they are buying the company that may be a facility that they would want to repurpose (*inaudible*)... There is some duplication there. But again, disquieting for the local community and employees that work there and the providers of product and services to the facility.

Chairman Odell: They had grown by significant leaps and bounds in the last few years especially. Not there is a good time to have this ever happen especially this time of year, it's harder hit. Anyone else?

MOVED by Legislator Proctor, SECONDED by Legislator Chagnon to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (6:15 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk/Lori J. Foster, Sr. Stenographer