

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

March 18, 2020, 6:00 pm, **Legislative Chambers**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Odell, Harmon, Ward

Members Present by Phone Conference: Starks

Others: Tampio, Dennison, Chagnon

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

Approval of Minutes (2/19/20)

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Harmon.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Odell: Anyone to speak to the privilege of the floor tonight?

Legislator Chagnon: Were there any comments received by the clerk?

Clerk Tampio: No comments for privilege of the floor, only comments associated with a few resolutions. I will read those at the appropriate time.

Chairman Odell: O.K., with that being said, I will offer one. We are in some turbulent times here and I think before we do any important undertaking that we should first invoke the aid of deity. Let's take a breath and say a prayer.

Most holy and glorious Lord God, the great architect of the universe, the giver of all good gifts and graces, in thy name we have assembled and in thy name we desire to proceed in all our doing. As we find ourselves in this uncertain period of tribulation, we as elected leaders, beseech thy grace, wisdom, and strength so that we can best serve those we are representing. In thy name we pray, amen.

Proposed Resolution - Authorize Funding to Construct Educational Kiosks at the Chautauqua Hometown Heroes Veterans Memorial

Chairman Odell: There is no one here to speak to this. This resolution was first brought forth as a 3% occupancy tax project back in July that was tabled at that meeting and is now being

brought up under a separate resolution. The dollar amounts have been updated to \$6,500 and I do have a couple of updates – a couple of the whereas’ we can treat them as typos that are dollar amounts that have been updated. The seventh whereas- Town of Chautauqua’s donation of \$5,000 was updated to \$10,000 since the original motion was made and we will include the addition of a \$5,000 contribution from the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation to help support this. We will just treat those as typos. It’s a great project. They have done a wonderful job of fundraising over the past year and have been very close to their mark and it looks like this will be a great way to drive this home to continue their message of remembering, honoring and educating all of our veterans both active and past at this memorial. Any questions?

Legislator Starks: It’s a wonderful project. We’ve heard a lot about it and I’m glad we are supporting it.

Chairman Odell: Any other questions or comments? All those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding a Potential Application for 2020 Community Development Block Grant Funding Through New York State Office of Community Renewal and the Uses of Said Funding

Clerk Tampio: We received a comment from Mark Geise who is the Director of Economic Development for the County. *“Pursuant to your request and in accordance with the recommendations of the Governor and the County Executive to avoid social contact, I am submitting the following talking points. Comments regarding the 2nd resolution on tonight’s PED Agenda, entitled Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding a Potential Application for 2020 Community Development Block Grant Funding through New York State Office of Community Renewal and the Uses of Said Funding:*

- *This resolution establishes a public hearing for the Webb’s Chautauqua Resort project, which will seek input from the public about the project;*
- *Project involves a community development block grant application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal for the projects, and the County will be the applicant;*
- *The County will enter into an agreement with the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation to oversee/administer the grant (as we have done on a number of other projects);*
- *A public hearing is required, and will be held at the April 22 Legislature meeting;*
- *A resolution was passed las year for this project, but because the project hadn’t started yet the grace period on resolution lapsed thereby requiring that it be brought back for reconsideration (the resolution is only good for 1 year); and*
- *This project does not involve any county funding, and will assist the project in coming to fruition.*

Please let me know if you have any comments, questions, or concerns.

Chairman Odell: Thank you very much. As that indicated this was brought before the legislature and passed- it doesn't seem like it was over a year ago, but I guess it was. We all know the Webb's project in Mayville and the project they're looking to take on. So, this resolution is just to move forward with the public hearing and looking to do that at our April Legislature meeting. Any questions from the committee? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Utilize Soil and Water Appropriation from the 2% Occupancy Tax to Conduct Geographic Information System (GIS) Analysis of Chautauqua Lake Watershed

Clerk Tampio: We have received another communication through email from Dave Spann, the District Field Manager for Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation district and he says, *“To whom it may concern: The District drafted this resolution with the support of CCSWCD Board Members and Chautauqua County Legislative representatives Frank Gould III and Lisa Vanstrom. If there are any questions regarding the content contained in this resolution, feel free to contact Cassandra Pinkoski, Grant Specialist for the District, at 716-673-5565 or by email, Due to the ongoing changes with the coronavirus, we cannot guarantee that someone will be staffed at the office to answer a call.*

Chairman Odell: Thank you madam clerk. There is one typo I discovered this afternoon in the fourth whereas, second line – amounts over three fifths should be two fifths for the occupancy tax. We will treat that as a typo.

Mrs. Dennison: Actually, Mr. Chairman, it is correct as stated because it's everything above and beyond.

Chairman Odell: Oh, above the three fifths, which would be the two fifths. O.K., then we will omit that typo. Thank you for the clarification Kathleen. This is another great project that will help them undertake this great project to help identify the most at risk areas in the watershed for erosion and water quality issues, which is all near and dear to us. Any questions? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Establish Capital Projects for Trail Development and Lake Erie Management Commission

Clerk Tampio: I have a received comments from Don McCord and I will read them for you. *“Dear Committee Members, Before you this evening is a resolution to establish capital project accounts for non-county maintained trail development projects and Lake Erie Management Commission projects. Both capital accounts will provide project funding for a variety of important project to both increase tourism attractions and preserve our natural resources.*

The funds are being placed in a capital account because both are expected to be utilized for projects that will meet the County's definition of capital and ease the accounting pressures these funds have placed on our Budget Department.

While Current projects are not utilizing these funds today, we do strongly anticipate that these funds will be needed to support both Lake Erie related projects and ongoing and future trail development projects in the near future.

If you should have any questions regarding either of these accounts, please feel free to reach out to me at 753-6103."

Chairman Odell: Thank you. Again, this is great that we got these capital accounts established, so this will hopefully help with the housekeeping. Kathleen, anything to add?

Mrs. Dennison: I guess I would just add that as you recall we had a discussion at last month's meeting about the designations and I also had discussions with Chairman Chagnon and Deputy County Executive Mark Geise and of course Director McCord and we came to an agreement that setting up capital projects would be advisable, so that's the purpose of the resolution. The funds are already reserved within the occupancy tax reserve and the reserve for lakes and waterways, so it's really just moving those monies out of the reserve and into a designated capital project, so we don't have to continue to monitor the designation of the reserve.

Chairman Odell: I think that's most appropriate, so thank you very much for getting that established after our discussion last month. Thank you. Any questions from the committee? All those in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Chairman Odell: The following resolution is a late resolution. It is for confirming appointments and re-appointments for the Chautauqua County Land Bank.

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointments - Chautauqua County Land Bank Board of Directors

Chairman Odell: By looking at the list- for Christine's benefit I will read the names because I don't think she has it. The names are Diane E. Hannum, Nicole May, Jim Caflisch, John Hemmer, William Carlson, Hugh Butler, Paul Whitford, Charles Cornell, Mark Giese, Rebecca Meeder, and Louis Drago, Jr. They are all doing a great job and this will be nice to get this tidied up. Any questions from the committee? All in favor? Opposed?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Motion – In Opposition of the Energy Siting Amendment to the NYS Budget

Chairman Odell: I will speak to this. Myself and Legislator Rankin have brought this forward and I was glad to see this was put out to Legislators Vanstrom, Davis, Scudder, Hemmer, Pavlock and Bankoski also indicated their desire to sign on. If you haven't had a chance to read this motion, this motion before us really opposes the Governor's plan of fast

tracking the permitting and construction of renewable energy projects really due to its exclusion of local zoning laws and public input. It seems inappropriate an amendment like this would be pushed through without gathering public input or considering the impact it will have on our local municipalities. If allowed, the passage of this egregious state amendment could potentially clear the way and greatly simplify the process for large companies to install more wind farms within Chautauqua County including offshore projects in our Lake Erie shores, which poses a threat to our fresh drinking water among other environmental assets. This legislative body has clearly heard over the past several years the concerns from the public, the environmental groups and our state elected representatives, including Senator Borrello and Assemblyman Goodell, who have a very close (*inaudible*) on this as well. This motion will send a clear message to the state that environmental projects must be closely reviewed and that local municipalities need to be part of the decision making process. Any further discussion on the motion?

Legislator Ward: I just want to say that based on my conversations with local environmentalists and some further away, along with small businesses and home owners, it seems that this is the right thing for us to do at this moment.

Chairman Odell: It echoes many of the other counties throughout the state as well. Any other discussion?

Legislator Starks: I agree. The local municipalities need to have a voice.

Chairman Odell: Very good. This will just pass to next week's legislature meeting. With that being said we will move on to other. Anyone have anything to bring before the Planning & Economic Development committee under other?

MOVED by Legislator Starks, SECONDED by Legislator Ward to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (6:17 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Kathy K. Tampio, Clerk/Olivia Ames, Deputy Clerk