

Minutes

Planning & Economic Development Committee

January 20, 2021, 6:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Odell, Starks, Muldowney, Harmon, Ward, Rankin, Lawton

Others: Tampio, Ames, N. Aldrich, Dennison, Giese, Chagnon, Dixon, Keller, Rasmussen,
G. Merriam, R. Wurster, R. Perry

Chairman Odell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (12/9/20)

MOVED by Legislator Harmon, SECONDED by Legislator Starks.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Odell: Madam Clerk, do we have any correspondence for privilege of the floor tonight?

Clerk Tampio: We do not.

Chairman Odell: As we see, we have additional legislative faces on here tonight which isn't uncommon for our committee to have visitors pop in but now we've actually have two additional committee members. Legislator Rankin and Legislator Lawton. Welcome to the team. Good to have you here in 2021. I appreciate Pierre adding you to it. A little fun fact, just for the benefit of those watching on Facebook live, according to Rule 1, Standing Committee, Section 2 of the Legislature's rules and regulations. Standing committees shall consist of no less than three and no more than nine members. So, we've got a group of seven, myself as Chair and Christine Starks being Vice Chair and happy to have you aboard and look forward to (*inaudible*) our group. We cover a lot of things from travel, tourism, economic development, to lakes and waterways so we have a lot on our plate and a lot of moving parts. So we appreciate all the additional insight to come. Now onto resolution.

Melissa, I will pump yours up. I think we all got a copy of it. It's an added resolution.

Proposed Resolution – Confirming Appointments and Re-Appointments – Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

Legislator Starks: Mr. Odell, Mrs. Rankin had something to say a minute ago. You just didn't see her.

Chairman Odell: I'm sorry Elisabeth, go ahead.

Legislator Rankin: I just want to thank you and the committee for inviting to be part of the august group. I'm very proud to be part of it and I hope that I can make an appropriate contribution. You have my undying respect and respect of the community and thank you for including me.

Chairman Odell: Glad to have you Elisabeth. How are you going to top that one Legislator Lawton? O.k., good to see you Melissa, go ahead.

Ms. Keller: Thank you. This resolution is for the appointments to our Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board. At some point the appointments will all need to expire in 2020 however in reviewing Ag & Markets law, it's the intention behind the law to have these appointments be staggered. So there are a lot of appointments within this resolution. Most of them being reappointments. Kathy and I, we spoke to the members of the board and asked what their preference would be in terms of term length and have staggered them appropriately. The only new appointment is Adam Rak. Dennis Rak, his father was previously on the board and Dennis has since stepped down and suggested his son for taking over his position on the board.

Chairman Odell: Good. Mr. Geise, anything to add?

Mr. Geise: No, but can I interject when you are done with this resolution?

Chairman Odell: Absolutely. This looks good. As we can see, we've got good sampling from throughout the County. Even got Mark Geise on here so congratulations Mark. Any questions from the Committee?

Unanimously Carried

Mr. Geise: I just wanted to introduce and welcome Rebecca Wurster. You're going to be seeing a lot of her. She replaced Don, she's the Planning Coordinator and she has really impressive resume. She did a lot of really great things up in Dunkirk and we're just absolutely thrilled to have her a part of our team so welcome Rebecca. Glad you could be with us.

Ms. Wurster: Thank you Mark. Thanks for the introduction.

Chairman Odell: Yea, indeed, you did a lot up there and look forward to the benefits you are going to bring to the County as a whole Rebecca so again, welcome to the team.

Ms. Wurster: Thanks so much.

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

Ms. Keller: Courtney Curatolo is from the Small Business Development Center, she's their Executive Director. Dan had suggested her as a member of our Planning Board. She's very excited, very interested in the new appointment so we're very happy to have her. The remaining two appointments are simply reappointments. All together, we have 9 appointed seats for the Planning Board. We still do have two remaining vacancies but we're happy to have those two and Courtney as well.

Chairman Odell: Absolutely and I was especially happy to see Courtney Curatolo coming on. She called me before the appointment and asked, what do you think Mark? I said, absolutely. You've done so much in the amount of time that you've been here and well recognized in receiving awards from Chautauqua Leadership Network and of course the great work that the Small Business Development Center does not go unnoticed and actually globally. So, we're really proud to have her on board along with the others. Any questions from the committee on this one?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Accept Grant Funding from the Chautauqua Region Community
Foundation to Update the Chautauqua County Agriculture and
Farmland Protection Plan

Mr. Keller: In 2018 our department was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to serve as a partial match to our New York State Department of Ag and Markets grant application to update our Farmland Protection plan. Since we hadn't started the project yet and since we hadn't at the time received the NYSDAM grant, we didn't want to enter into the agreement where we would only have one year to complete the project. So while we have received the NYSDAM funding and we have begun the project, we'd like to enter into an agreement with the Community Foundation to accept this award.

Chairman Odell: Excellent presentation Mellissa. Anything to add from the Committee? What do you guys think?

Mr. Geise: I'm sure you all read the resolution but, this is as much about economic development as it is about protection of farmland. It's really agriculture is economic development. We're really concentrating on doing a plan that helps farmers to become sustainable and looks at options for those farmers that maybe the traditional ways of farming are not panning out for them now so we're really working with a great consultant and we're excited about this plan.

Chairman Odell: Absolutely and last Friday I reached out to Torry (*inaudible*) at the Foundation to thank her personally on behalf of the Committee for dedicating these much needed matching funds to help this go forward. So really please, good proposal, good resolution.

Legislator Ward: I appreciate Mark that you went ahead and thanked her on behalf of all of us. This is great stuff and thank you Mellissa for presenting this so well.

Chairman Odell: Good, anything else from the Committee? All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Chautauqua County State Grant Application and Commitment of Matching Funds for County Complex Green Infrastructure Retrofit Project

Randall Perry from the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Alliance. I'm not sure if Dave McCoy is on tonight but I'd be happy to speak to the resolution if that's acceptable to you.

Chairman Odell: Thank you and welcome tonight. I don't see Dave on so go ahead.

Mr. Perry: So the Alliance has been working with Brad Bentley from the Department of Public Facilities and Dave McCoy with Planning and Mark and others to prepare a resubmission of (*inaudible*) grant application that would, if successful, allow the Department of Public Facilities of the County to integrate green infrastructure retrofits into a currently plan parking lot upgrade at the Mayville County complex. So this grant application is through the New York State Green Innovation grant program. Again, it's a project that's planned but this, if successful would take County dollars, leverage them at 9 to 1 with State dollars to not only complete the project but also to integrate green infrastructure retrofits so that 9 to 1 leveraging was really appealing in this particular case. You can see the budgetary breakdown in the resolution. These funds are already available in either the DPF's capital budget for the parking lot project or they're County dollars that are available solely for matching State grant dollars. That's their purpose so that is where the money would come from. Just a little back ground. With the retrofits installed, they would basically utilize infiltration and (*inaudible*) to capture surface runoff at the complex. Approximately 38,000 gallons plus or minus every time an inch of rain falls on the parking areas and then rounding that water into sewer drains, pipes, and then ditches and then straight to Chautauqua Lake. It would instead allow that water to move through the subsurface more slowly thereby cooling it, filtering it, removing nutrients and sediment so helping water quality. We're also making economic sense in terms of this 9 to 1 leveraging, if successful. I'd be happy to answer any questions on the grant application if there are any.

Chairman Odell: Thank you very much Randall. Great presentation. Round robin to the Committee. Go ahead guys. Any questions, comments, or concerns?

Legislator Starks: I know the whole parking lot plan was presented to us and it's well needed and the additional infrastructure is a great idea.

Chairman Odell: Yea, and I'll tell ya. Just looking at this, timing is everything Randall. This is part of the capital project to do anyways but now we tie it into the grant as part of this project, the project we're going to do anyways, because we're doing it now or will be doing it,

again, we're getting a 9 to 1 leveraging so nicely done everyone. The stars align very, very nicely. No other questions, comments, or concerns? All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing the Adoption of a Section 3 Participation Plan in Connection with Community Development Block Grant Funding

Mr. Giese: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll just start and then I'm going to kick this over to Greg Merriam from Harry Sickerman(?) shop there in Lockport. They are the consultant that is administering the OCR grant that the Chautauqua Lodge project received. As part of that CDBG requirement, they must be administering entity, municipality, in this case the County, we must adopt a provision or a plan that complies with OCR's requirements having to do with hiring low income and low to moderate income folks. Again, I originally I asked Chuck (*inaudible*), he couldn't make it so Greg Merriam is here to speak to it. Also we have Rich Dixon on the call and so is Carol Rasmussen who's the Project Manager for this project. So with that Greg, why don't I kick it over to you and then we can open it up for questions.

Mr. Merriam: Great, thanks Mark. So Section 3 really just in a brief description, is a policy that requires preference be given to local low income workers and businesses in instances where projects are funded with Federal dollars. So the threshold where this becomes relevant are projects that are funded in greater than \$200,000 and where those funds are applied for the use of construction, rehab, demolition, etc. So the policy is really only going to be relevant and since one; it's for all money two; it's more than \$200,000, and three; it's used for construction and demolition rehab etc. So in the case of the Chautauqua Lodge and most of our economic development small business projects funded through the New York State Office of Community Renewal, we yet to really have a case where Section 3 applies to any of these projects because rarely it's that we use those funds for construction. Those funds are usually targeted towards machinery and equipment, furnishings and fixtures, working capital, etc. So it is not likely in the case of Chautauqua Lodge or any other potential projects that this will become relevant. If it were to become relevant in some instance what that would mean is that the County would have to look to notify local residents and businesses or contractor if there is a project out there that's funded with Federal money and some preference would be given to contractors who are eligible under Section 3. And it may have some requirements for job training and employment programming and really (*inaudible*) awarding contracts to Section 3 eligible businesses. So again, we get to render a situation where we've had to implement this but it's simply a policy that OCR requires to be on the books for communities who are applying for Community Development Block Grant funds.

Chairman Odell: Thank you Greg.

Legislator Ward: Just a quick question. Is that Greg, because its mostly been used, in the past, or the intent is to use for equipment?

Mr. Merriam: I'm sorry, I'm not following your question.

Legislator Ward: You said that it will become – please explain to me again what are the circumstances under which it would become relevant and you said something about equipment and the fact that it's been used for equipment in the past so it hasn't been relevant.

Mr. Merriam: No the Section 3 policy and participation plan is only relevant in instances where a grant is awarded greater than \$200,000 and those grant monies are used to reimburse for construction, demo, or rehab costs. Most of our grants that we get through the Economic Development program, the small business program, that money is used to pay for things like equipment. So part of this is also staying away from (*inaudible*) and Federal prevailing wage rates and things like that. That's why we intend not to use block grant money for construction because that just creates a different set of challenges to overcome.

Mr. Geise: Rich, did you want to add anything to that?

Mr. Dixon: No, I just think that Greg hit the nail on that. It slows things down, it's bureaucratic, and it's much simpler and use it for working capital and supplies. Things that they were going to buy anyway and no matter where they get them it would be the same price. So it streamlines things, it make the reporting easier and actually it's a lot less liability for the County as the grant recipient.

Mr. Giese: So certainly working with Webb's, Harry, Greg, Chuck, and Rich, when we're looking at their financing package, certainly we're looking to use that grant funding for those things and not for construction.

Chairman Odell: That's correct. Good question Bill. Good answers Greg, Mark, and Rich. Any other questions from the committee? We discussed this briefly Mark, the Section 3 participation plan, we've done a number of Community Development Block Grants in the past. This is just the first I saw all the additional paperwork and the full participation plan come forward. Is that just something we're adding in now just to bolster the resolution which is fine? There are a lot of stringent requirements and I can see where we can meet them. I'm not concerned about that by any means.

Mr. Merriam: It is and it isn't. Section 3 has been around but OCR is really requiring every municipal entity to have this particular plan or something like it on the books. So the plan that you have in front of you is based on a template that the State Office of Community Renewal provides to communities who are applying for their programs. So it's only within the last few years that they've required that this be on the books and for evidence of it to be produced as part of the projects that are funded.

Mr. Dixon: And Greg, this will cover other projects correct?

Mr. Merriam: Correct. This will be the last time that you'll have to do this unless the policy changes.

Chairman Odell: Thank you for that clarification Greg. To the rest of the Committee, anything to add? Questions, concerns or comments? All in favor?

Unanimously Carried

Other

Chairman Odell: That concludes resolutions for tonight. I'll move into "other". Anyone have anything to bring under "other" tonight?

Legislator Ward: I just wanted to add my congratulations and welcome to the new committee members. It's really, really going to be great to work with you guys.

Mr. Giese: Thank you Greg for joining us, we appreciate it a lot.

Legislator Starks: It seemed like Mr. Odell was looking for my line where I have no other "other".

Chairman Odell: That's what we were looking for. You do a great job of that. Wouldn't be a night without it. Just looking out to our crystal ball, Mr. Giese, just give the committee a heads up on what we're looking to do in either February or March, the review of the projects and kind of a score card and kind of a post mortem from the prior year. I don't know if we determined which month we want to do that but just to give the committee a flavor of what we have coming down the pipe.

Mr. Giese: I think February or March we'll come back to you and report out on how we did with the occupancy tax, the 2% and the 3% and then community contracts that we administer and then all of our other initiatives. So, I would think February or March. We just need a little bit of time to kind of close things out, see where we are and put together something nice for you. *(Cross talk)...*

Chairman Odell: Not a problem, we'll be ready when you are. Seeing no other "others", we'll look for a motion to adjourn.

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

Unanimously Carried (6:23 p.m.)

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