

Minutes
Planning & Economic Development Committee
July 17, 2024, 6:00 pm, Legislative Chambers
Livestreamed on YouTube
Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Harmon, Johnson, Penhollow, Larson, Gustafson

Members Absent: Wilfong

Others: Lee, Chagnon, Swan, Makowski, Martin, Strandburg, Wendel, Domst, Zafuto, McCoy, Ihrig, Sharp, Geise, Castle

Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube

Chairman Harmon called the meeting to order at (6:30 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes (06/18/24)

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Larson.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Hello, I'm John Jablonski of 213 Spruce Street, Lakewood, New York. I'm here to speak on 3 things tonight. I will be brief. First, I want to say that as a property owner in the Town of Ellery, near Chautauqua Lake, I strongly support the County Legislature in the Town of Ellery and Town of Chautauqua moving ahead with pursuing public sewers on that side of Chautauqua Lake under proposed resolution #4. Secondly, under proposed resolution #5, cost share for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for Chautauqua, before the Legislature takes any action on that, it'd be nice to actually see what the scope of work is for that project and I would encourage you as part of that tonight, to discuss that scope of work so that everybody sitting here can understand what exactly that entails before the County invests in that. What are you going to get for your investment? Thirdly, I'm here to give my strong support for the State wetland regulations that are proposed and I think it's really important that Chautauqua Lake be subject to those regulations. We have had continuous destruction of our shore land areas and excessive sedimentation of our lake and excessive sedimentation leads to excessive (*inaudible*) growth. It's one of the factors at making that plant grow and grow and having stronger wetland regulations in place will help in the long run to actually prevent the lake from filling in as much as it has been filling in so there's a whole bunch of people who are trying to fight that and I think they're efforts are misguided and should actually be put into stronger regulations in each town and in the County to keep that mud and the nutrients out of the lake that actually fill in the lake and cause the lake to become shallower where you get shallow water where emergent vegetation like cat tails can grow. That's what I'm here to say tonight and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

County Executive Wendel: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. County Executive, Wendel. I would like to bring to the attention of the committee of Planning and Economic Development that information was received last Friday by Buffalo Business First that the County of Chautauqua IDA has been ranked #1 in Economic Development in Western New York, surpassing Invest Buffalo Niagara and including Erie County IDA. To the tune, 3 times the projects Erie County has done. So I think it would go - we will be giving more information but people think Invest Buffalo Niagara as the gold standard. Well, I think it's very telling that our group here as a team effort, has surpassed that group. So on behalf of myself, the residents, I would like to congratulate our IDA and Mark, in the Planning Department for being part of that.

Proposed Resolution – Requesting AFPB to Remove Parcels from Agricultural District 8 –
Presented by Lauren Sharp, Junior Planner with the Department of Planning & Development

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Public Hearing Regarding the Potential Application for 2024 Community Development Block Grant Funding through the New York State Office of Community Renewal and the Uses of Such Funding – *Presented by Rosemarie Strandburg, Project Manager for the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency and Miranda Castle, Business Owner of the Busti Tap House*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Chautauqua County Food Policy Council Dormancy – *Presented by Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development, Lauren Sharp, Junior Planner with the Department of Planning and Development and Courtney Domst, Junior Planner with the Department of Planning and Development*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Inter-Municipal Agreement with City of Dunkirk – *Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator and Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizes use of Chautauqua County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to Fund the East Chautauqua Lake Sewer Study – *Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator and Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

Unanimously Carried

Presentation – Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study – *Presented by Marion Divers*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2024 Budget to Provide the Federal Cost-Share for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for Chautauqua Lake – *Presented by Pierre Chagnon, Chairman of the Legislature, Paul Wendel Jr., County Executive, Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator and Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Penhollow to Amend by Substitution – Unanimously Carried to Amend

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. _____**

TITLE: Amend 2024 Budget to Provide the Federal Cost-Share for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study for Chautauqua Lake

BY: Planning & Economic Development and Audit & Control Committees:

AT THE REQUEST OF: County Executive Paul M. Wendel, Jr.:

WHEREAS, Chautauqua Lake is an invaluable asset to Chautauqua County but has been designated as an impaired water body and its health and usability are threatened excessive weed growth and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); and

WHEREAS, excessive weed growth and HABs are caused by external nutrient loading from the watershed and internal nutrient loading from legacy sediment accumulations within the lake; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County successfully advocated to our Congressional Representatives for a Federal Authorization in America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to undertake the cooperative Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (AER) Feasibility Study for Chautauqua Lake; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County successfully advocated to our Congressional Representatives to include federal funding for the AER Feasibility Study for Chautauqua Lake in the Federal Fiscal Year 24-25 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which was signed into law by President Biden in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County desires to partner with USACE and is willing and able to participate as the Non-Federal Sponsor of the proposed AER Feasibility Study for Chautauqua Lake, which has a total cost not to exceed \$3 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County desires to enter into a Federal Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) with USACE to advance the AER Feasibility Study for Chautauqua Lake, which establishes Chautauqua County’s cost-share commitment at a cost not to exceed \$1.5 million dollars over the three year term of the FCSA; and

WHEREAS, to initiate the AER Feasibility for Chautauqua Lake, Chautauqua County will commit \$600,000 from the 2024 County Budget to fulfill its cost share for Federal Fiscal Year 24-25 and execute the FCSA before September 30, 2024; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Chautauqua County will amend the 2024 Budget to obligate \$600,000 from the Fund Balance to satisfy its federal cost-share for Federal Fiscal Year 24-25; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into any and all contracts necessary to implement the terms of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to make the following amendments to the 2024 Adopted Budget:

INCREASE THE USE OF FUND BALANCE:

A.-----889.WATR Reserved Fund Balance-MISC RES: Lakes & Watrway \$600,000

INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT:

A.8020.WTRS.4 Contractual—Planning, Watershed Administration \$600,000

Unanimously Carried as Amended

Presentation – Updates on CCVB Programming – *Presented by Andrew Nixon, Director of Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau*

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Larson to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (7:53 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk