

Minutes  
Planning & Economic Development Committee  
**January 15, 2025, 6:00 pm, Legislative Chambers**  
**Livestreamed on YouTube**  
**Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY**

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

Members Absent: Dickey

Others: Chagnon, Lee, N. Quattrone, Swan, Geise, McCoy, Wurster, Reuther, Wehrfritz

**Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube**

Chairman Harmon called the meeting to order at (6:00 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes (12/11/24)

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Penhollow.

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator Larson: Under privilege of the floor, since we don't have one at the end of the meeting. I sent to our chairman by email, what I labeled a sample 2025/2026 Economic Development Goals, Objectives and Measurements. And suggested that in accordance with what the Charter, the '98 Charter, our Code and our own Legislature Rules command us to do – and that is as a committee to set goals, set objectives that carry out those goals and then establish measurements to see how we did. I'm hoping that starting in February the members of the committee would bring their own ideas of what they think our County government including the IDA, our IDA, should be working on in 2025/2026. And I gave some examples here of things that are measurable. And I understand that Mr. Geise will have a presentation next month, I take it on items such as the Ripley Industrial Park and the sixty acre development in our South County Industrial Park. And what the Charter/Code and our own Legislature Rules and Regulations was that we would say something like the sixty acres in the South County Industrial Park is to have roads, sewer, water, gas, electric, storm sewer in place by – fill in the blank. And then, by that fill in the blank date, you/we know, the community knows, did we meet our objective or didn't we. And if we didn't reach it – why didn't we reach it. Same with the Ripley site. We should not be satisfied with generalities that we are working on X, Y & Z. There should be specifics as to what needs to be done, when is it envisioned to be done, and then we can measure how that happens. Our planning department, part of our Economic Development effort, they certainly can give us their considered opinion on how many jobs per acre these days an industrial site might create. So, as a committee, economic development committee, confronted with the reality that the state department of labor says there are about 12,000 fewer people employed here in Chautauqua County then fifteen years ago or so. If we set a goal of 500 new

jobs for 2025, maybe 1,000 new jobs in 2026, well, how many acres of land have we got to develop? And how many acres of land does the county and/or its IDA need to go out in the marketplace and acquire in areas that are zoned industrial and have access to water, sewer, electric, gas? Measureables – if you can measure it, it's probably not going to get done. And that was the idea of the 1998 Charter. As I said at the last meeting I guess I have no idea when is the last time this legislature made any attempt to follow what the Charter commands on at least an annual basis and that the work I've been describing is to be done by June of each year, delivered to the County Executive to be incorporated in his budget preparation for September. So, all this is Mr. Chairman is a SAMPLE of the kind of goals, objectives and measurements we could be looking at. Mark Geise starting tonight will have an opportunity to look at what the sample is and to have his staff assist us in setting objectives, goals and things that can be measured instead of generalities. That we are doing a good job, that things are getting better - that we are on the move. I don't know what any of that means and none of us do. But if we commit to having an industrial park shovel ready by a given date, we can tell did that happen or didn't it? If it happened – great. And we can all be proud of those kind of achievements. So, under Privilege of the Floor, I hope that next month we can incorporate starting to follow our command of the Charter, Code and our own Rules so that by June we can have something like this ready to submit to the executive. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Harmon: Thank you Mr. Larson for that. I did forward that sheet to Mr. Geise and as you indicated, Mark and his team will do a presentation in February. Looking forward to that so we will be able to answer a lot of questions at that time that Mr. Larson has.

Legislator Johnson: I would love to see from somebody a copy of that 1998 Charter. Here's why. Just being a new guy here. What I felt odd about our budget process, was all the initiative was taken within the executive and then we reviewed it – at a greater or lesser degree of detail. In any budgeting process in corporate life, I've ever been a part of – it's the equivalent of the Legislature, the board – who sets parameters to the executive that they must meet in their budget coming back. And it sounded like that Charter was trying to do that. But, so I'd like to see it.

Chairman Harmon: I don't know where...

Legislator Larson: In our orientation – at least I got it at some point.

Legislator Chagnon: It's posted on our Legislature's website. Under Forms and Documents.

Legislator Larson: I'm sure the clerk will print you a copy because us older guys like to have a piece of paper.

Legislator Johnson: I was going to print it anyway.

Legislator Larson: Well, they can print it.

Legislator Johnson: But all of that aside, it just is a strategic thing. It just struck me as odd that we by June or August or whatever, hadn't given the Executive parameters for the budget. We had global parameters but not detailed. But this is how we did it last year and the year before, this is what we'd like to see.

Chairman Harmon: Once you get that, we can have further discussion when you get the Charter.

Legislator Larson: Mr. Chairman, Legislator Johnson once again with his business background, educational background, he has hit the nail on the head even though he hasn't read through the '98 Charter. It's exactly what the '98 Charter was trying to do. It was describing a Legislature that was not reactive and if you look Fred, at twelve months legislature agendas our first year/your first year here-my first year back – look through those resolutions. At the request of the County Executive, at the request of the County Executive, at the request of the County Executive. We react. The Charter of '98 envisioned a Legislature that explicitly set polity, set guidelines, set parameters, goals and measurements for the Executive to incorporate and consider in his budget every year. So you are absolutely on the right track. Thank you.

Legislator Johnson: I didn't want to make a long story of it. But...

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Proposed Resolution - Confirm Appointments to the Lake Erie Management Commission –  
*Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator  
 and Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment – County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors - Presented by Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Repurposing of Capital Project Funds for Jamestown Community College (JCC) – Presented via telephone by Kathleen Dennison, Temporary Director of Administrative Services for Health and Human Services JCC

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Restoring Passenger Air Service to the Chautauqua County Airport at Jamestown – Presented by Pierre Chagnon, Chairman of the Legislature and Legislator Fred Larson

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Opposition to Lake Erie Wind Turbines and Authorize Necessary Steps to Protect the County’s Interest – *Presented by Legislator Tom Harmon*

*Unanimously Carried*

Other –

Late Proposed Resolution - Amend 2025 Budget - Countywide Resiliency Grant, White Inn Restore New York Grant, and Sediment and Debris Management Plan for Bemus Creek – *Presented by Rebecca Wurster, Planning Coordinator for the Department of Planning and Development and Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development*

*Unanimously Carried*

Discussion – Cassadaga Lake Flooding – *Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator, Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and Bob Reuther, on the Board of the Cassadaga Lake Association*

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

*Unanimously Carried (7:17 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/ Nancy Quattrone, Senior Stenographer