

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Johnson, Groat, Chatfield, Lasher and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Representatives Jessica Spence, Amy Pyra and Amy Pelton, Tourism Director Christine Worth and Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli. Supervisor Robusto was not present for the meeting.

Minutes from the February 2nd Committee meeting were approved as written.

Mrs. Spence reviewed the history of the 4-H Program. In 1902, school teachers in Ohio recognized their students were open to learning about, and understood, the benefits that new technology could bring to agriculture. The teachers connected with their state agricultural colleges to start a program to teach farm children the basics of home and farm management; this program would eventually be called 4-H. In 1912 4-H clubs began to form in several states. As the number of young people involved in 4-H clubs grew, they were eventually linked to the National Cooperative Extension Service System. The system was formed in 1914 under the leadership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). By 1936, there were 1 million 4-H youth members nationally. Today, 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the United States. The organization offers programs in a diverse range of topics and interest areas. From science and technology to clothing, textiles and more. 4-H provides fun educational opportunities that empower young people with skills to address the leading challenges of the 21st century. Mrs. Pyra stated 4-H stands for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. Through the program students, under competent leadership of specially trained adult volunteers, are now involved in many new areas and provide youth with positive relationships with adults and peers. Mrs. Pelton reviewed the success of the 4-H Afterschool Program. The program provides each child with a well supervised, safe, enriching after school learning experience. 4-H provides a quality elementary age program which support a child's physical, emotional, social and cognitive development during out of school hours.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was reviewed. The report listed meetings and events attended by Mrs. Worth and staff. A reprint of the Fishing Directory Brochure will take place in the next few months. 2022 I Love NY funding was received earlier in the week. Mrs. Worth is a member of the Newark Downtown Revitalization Initiative Planning Committee; their first meeting was earlier this week. She participated in a sports show in Massachusetts in February and will be present at a Pennsylvania sports show later this month. The part-time position of Account Clerk has been filed in the Office. Updates to the Tourism website continue. Visitor Guide partners are being contacted about their continued participation, while staff review possible changes in the Guide's design. The Department's Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues to post updates on ice-fishing.

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Mrs. Worth reviewed with Supervisors the difficulty with tourism discussions about Wayne County when there are villages and towns to distinguish between for individuals that are not familiar with the area. She is considering redesigning the County Visitor's Guide to reflect Wayne County in three corridors—lake shore, canal and central.

The following transmittals were presented for the Economic Development/Planning Department:

--Authorization to make modifications to Agricultural District #1. Mr. Pincelli said a full review of the County's Ag. District is performed every eight years. In between, modifications, like this one, are necessary. The modification will add approximately 60 acres in the Town of Butler to the District. Approved 4-0. (Following the meeting, it was discovered the public hearing needed for this modification to take place did not occur. The request will be pulled at the Board meeting and presented again in April.)

--Authorization to submit an application to the State Department of Agriculture and Markets to update the County's Farmland Protection Plan. The request is for \$40,000 and requires a 50% local match. Mr. Pincelli said the County's first Farmland Protection Plan was written in 1997, with an update performed in 2008. The document is in need of updating. These funds are accessible to municipalities to retain their rural character while keeping farmland affordable for the next generation. Mr. Pincelli noted farmland protection is a vital part of land use and industry in Wayne County. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to issue Requests For Proposals for updates to the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, Local Laws and recommendations for enforcement. Mr. Pincelli noted this issue was discussed last month with the Committee, at that time it was agreed outside expertise was needed to update the County's Plan that expired in 2010. Supervisors questioned if the Plan would include a means for residents to dispose of electronics and hazardous materials. Mr. Pincelli said this could be arranged; however would need to be budgeted for and planned in advance. At this time the Planning Department permits waste haulers in the County, charging \$25 per collection vehicle on the road. They do not have staff to verify the numbers they are given. NYS DEC is mandating each county have a written Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Pincelli noted the DEC will fund 50% of staff cost to oversee a municipal solid waste program. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign an agreement with Lamar Advertising for design and advertising on six billboards for a cost of \$90,000. Mr. Pincelli said this Committee decided years ago to follow a recommendation made in the Opportunity Analysis the County had done, to advertise the County in a more positive light. He will be reviewing the success of this contract before renewing it next year. Approved 4-0.

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--Authorization to designate Planner, Thomas Lyon, as Certifying Officer for Community Development Block Grant Housing Environmental Review. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to make a determination under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for proposed modifications to the County's Agricultural District. Approved 4-0.

In other business, the Committee was presented with a transmittal requesting authorization for the Board to oppose the New York State Farm Workers' Fair Labor Practices Act that would allow for a change in the existing overtime threshold for farm laborers below 60 hours a week. Area farms, legislators and the Farm Bureau all agree the change would result in a significant increase in labor costs and serve as a disincentive to growing the agricultural sector. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Pincelli said efforts continue on the County's Broadband Project. Mr. Chatfield said he was disappointed tax payer money was going to a private business. He does not believe the initial quote Charter provided the County for residential internet service will remain in place very long.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th at 10:00 a.m.