

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 10:25 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Johnson, Groat, Chatfield, Robusto, Lasher and Eygnor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Interim Executive Director Maggie McHugh, Extension 4-H Leader Ryan Kay Kincaid and Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli.

Minutes from the April 5th Committee meeting were approved as written.

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was reviewed. During April, Mrs. Worth remained busy with many Bicentennial activities; all events are included on the waynecounty200.com webpage. She is looking into having a solar eclipse poster made for this April 2024 event that will have excellent viewing in the County—weather permitting. Advertising is complete for summer promotions and ads for the *New York Outdoors* and *Pennsylvania Outdoors* magazines are finalized. The first planning meeting for the 2023 Apple Tasting Tour was held on April 27th. Staff will communicate with potential birding sites in the County on how nominations can be considered for the I Love NY Birding Trail. The Microtel located in Macedon will be opening in early May. Listings are being finalized for the 2023 Visitor's Guide. Mrs. Worth met with owners of the Finger Lakes Tree House located in Sodus regarding their four-season venue. It will open on July 1st. Pictures of the newly constructed units were displayed.

Mrs. Worth presented a transmittal requesting authorization to accept the low bid of \$18,287 from Dual Print and Mail for the printing 40,000 Wayne County Travel Guides. Approved 5-0.

Ms. Kincaid updated Supervisors on the many 4-H activities youth 5-19 years of age can be involved in. The value of participation in 4-H Programs starts with leadership, but includes knowledge of agriculture, healthy living and confidence building. 4-H promotes citizenship, civic engagement and public speaking. Many 4-H youth live on farms and have responsibilities for their animals—feeding, bedding and other supplies; they are taught responsibility.

There are several 4-H Clubs around the County, meeting at various locations; efforts continue to increase Club membership. 4-H Programs are youth centered and youth driven. Some 4-H'ers have started businesses based on what they have learned during 4-H clubs and workshops. Ms. Kincaid said Extension is hoping to offer entrepreneurial training so, more teens in 4-H can learn how to start their own businesses.

Ms. Kincaid is involved in a Statewide group that are organizing mini-grant opportunity for 4-H'ers who develop solutions to local challenges/problems. Local youth are in the beginning stages of planning a 4-H livestock auction, which will take place next year. 4-H is also planning to do a variety of fundraisers, which support both the 4-H program and local businesses.

PAGE 2

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

--Authorization to set a date for a Public Hearing on the County's Comprehensive Housing Plan. This is the second Public Hearing held for the updated Plan. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to issue requests for proposals for a qualified environmental firm to assist the County in administering Federal Revolving Loan Fund monies. Mr. Pincelli informed Supervisors the Economic Development/Planning Department received \$1 million in US Environmental Protection Agency Funds. The Department will utilize the Wayne Economic Development Corporation for marketing, promotion, underwriting and other administrative function for these funds. Funding is contingent upon utilization of qualified environmental professionals for review of reports and other EPA requirements. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to abolish the position of Senior Planner, create, and fill the position of Planner. Mr. Pincelli has an individual interested in the position. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to expand the Business Park Feasibility Study to include the former Butler Prison site utilizing funds from the Industrial Development Agency. The County received a \$30,000 matching grant for a feasibility and marketing study on the former prison. The study is needed to show Empire State Development that the facility can be sold, but only below market value. Last month the Board denied the request, as they did not want County funds expended for this purpose. Mr. Pincelli said required matching funds will come from the Industrial Development Agency. Approved 5-0.

An out of state travel request was presented for Mr. Pincelli to attend the National Brownfield Conference in Detroit, Michigan, from April 8th-12th for a price of \$1,400. EPA Grant funds will pay the cost of travel. Approved.

A transmittal was presented requesting authorization to create and fill a temporary Secretary position in the Economic Development/Planning Department. Mr. Pincelli informed Supervisors the Senior Clerk Typist in his Office is resigning; however, has agreed to assist with training of her replacement. The requested \$10,000 budget line will be available for six months. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Pincelli asked if there was any interest for Board members to be presented with the findings of the County Housing Plan, which is nearing completion. It was agreed he would make a 15-minute presentation on the Plan at the June 20th Board meeting. Review of the Plan's finding will allow municipalities to know housing needs in their communities.

The Economic Development/Planning Department is working to update the County's Farmland Protection Plan. Mr. Pincelli stated the need noted to balance economic growth and protect farmland and rural character. Economic Development staff are supporting that balance, including

PAGE 3

conversations with NYS Ag. and Markets, NYS Energy Research and Development Agency, and State and regional Economic Development agencies, in coordination with planning projects including the County Housing Study and Business Park analysis, to help inform and provide resources to accommodate the balance. Mr. Robusto stated the need for communities to have the proper infrastructure in place to support new development.

In other business, Mr. Lasher asked if the Economic Development & Planning Department would be offering staff to assist municipalities in grant writing. Mr. Pincelli stated that he and Mr. House are developing a strategy to create positions in the Department to provide this assistance, but timing and approvals are still developing.

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m.