

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Groat, Robusto, Johnson, Lasher, Jacobs and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Ken Blake, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Beth Claypoole and Soil and Water Conservation District Director Lyndsey Gerstenslager.

Minutes from the April 7th Committee meeting were approved as written.

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

--Authorization to amend Board Resolution No. 202-21 regarding the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant funds. The original resolution included a request to upgrade the HVAC system in the Health Services Building; that project was deemed ineligible for funding. The funds will now be requested for Mental Health Department programming to address the increased rate of suicides and drug-related deaths due to COVID-19, for the purchase and repurposing of Lakeview Health Services property for use as an emergency resident facility, and small business related recovery as related to the pandemic. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to accept Community Development Block Grant funding for \$200,000 and for the Chairman of the Board to sign appropriate documents for receipt of this funding. Funds will be utilized for a MicroBurst Program to support new small businesses and will be administered by the Wayne Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) under a sub recipient agreement with the County. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization to designate a Certifying Officer and make a determination under the National Environmental Policy Act and State Environmental Quality Review Act for receipt of \$200,000 in Community Block Grant Funds and the need to make sure certain requirements for utilization of the funds are followed. Approved 5-0.

Mr. Pincelli stated the Office remains busy with grant applications to assist area businesses during the pandemic and efforts continue to update broadband coverage across the County. Mr. Pincelli said he has an updated build-out list. The Office is collecting data from broadband service providers in the County to continue to monitor gaps in service.

Ms. Claypoole reported Extension Ag Teams are busy at the beginning of the growing season. Growers need to make decisions on which trees and how much trimming should be done to their orchards. Last year's draught stunted some growth. A machine is available that will trim blooms from trees to reduce fruit production. Zoom sessions are being held with growers; it is difficult to do this on line, but at this time there is no other way to get this group together. Extension is planning to conduct the County Fruit Tour in person later this year. This is generally a very well

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attended event. Individuals have been contacting the Extension Office regarding participating in a solar consortium. There is concern because this would be on prime farmland. Ms. Claypoole said staff are working with Cornell to determine how these questions should be answered. Extension will be placing information on solar projects on their website; the website includes a variety of issues and programs.

A power point presentation showing how 16-year-old Charlotte Sanson established "First Choice Farm", a small business, and how her 4-H involvement helped her with this success was shown to the Committee. Her story was hi-lighted in the *Times of Wayne County*. Charlotte has been raising goats for several years, began making soap from their milk and now makes other products that have made her business expand.

Mrs. Worth reviewed her monthly report. The report listed meetings she attended during March. Advertisements were placed in *NY Up*, the *Finger Lakes Times*, *Upstate Summer Guide* and *Visit Rochester Guide*. The County received notification that the Apple Tasting Tour app received the 2021 New York State Tourism Excellence Award for recognition; Mrs. Worth is in the process of reviewing updates to the 2021 Apple Tasting Tour app. Mrs. Worth is assisting the County's Bi-Centennial Committee in development of a two-year calendar for 2022-2023. The updated Visitor's Guide will be on the Department's webpage next month. The updated website highlights camping and golfing.

The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues to keep the County's fishing web page up-to-date and has finalized advertisement for *New York Outdoor News*.

A new part-time Account Clerk started in the Office last week; this will be a great asset to the Department.

Mr. House presented a transmittal requesting authorization for 12 and 13 year olds to hunt with firearms in Wayne County. The request was previously reviewed and approved by the County's Public Safety Committee. DEC said authorization must be provided by each upstate county if they want to opt into this pilot program. The request will require the County to hold a public hearing on the issue. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Soil and Water Conservation District to utilize the County logo to promote the Wayne County Fishing Derby, with some modifications, to reflect the event. The total cost of the derby is \$3,800. McDonalds is a sponsor of the event, along with many other businesses. Registration is available on-line or in person for the event that begins in June and goes through the first two week in July. Approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m.