

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Groat, Robusto, Johnson, Lasher and Miller, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli and Tourism Director Christine Worth.

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

Mr. Pincelli reported the Senior Clerk Typist in the Planning/Economic Development Department has taken another job; her replacement is Deborah Hall. The position of Business Outreach Coordinator is currently vacant; Mr. Pincelli will be discussing how to fill this position with Mr. House.

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

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign necessary documents for the submission and receipt of a 2021 Community Development Block Grant for a comprehensive housing study. The County's cash match is \$2,500 for this \$50,000 grant. Mr. Pincelli noted the County match for this and the next two requests is not budgeted; however, funding is not needed until grant funding is awarded. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign agreement documents with the State for submission of a Local Government Efficiency Program application for \$495,000. The County share for these funds is \$45,000. If received, funds will be used to improve GIS parcel data and conversion from the Computer Aided Design (CAD) parcel data system. The last GIS assessment for the County was performed in 2007. The need for the County to update, evaluate and identify how the GIS system can be utilized was discussed. The Emergency Management and Planning/Economic Development Offices both have employees that work a great deal with GIS. Mr. Pincelli sees this as an opportunity to modernize the County's GIS database. Mr. Miller questioned if there was an overlap with GIS and pictometry. If the Emergency Management Department is currently funding flyover photos of the County was questioned. Several County Departments utilize GIS. Mr. Pincelli said he will ask both the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority to be partners in this venture. The grant includes funding for staff training. Approved 5-0.

--Authorization for the Chairman of the Board to sign any documents necessary to submit and receive Economic Development Council Grant funds from the Empire State Development Program. The Office is applying for \$60,000 in funds, with a \$30,000 County match, to develop a comprehensive business park feasibility strategy. Mr. Pincelli said the Department is becoming more pro-active in its business attraction efforts. Approved 5-0.

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The Planning/Economic Development Department has been busy working with municipalities on solar projects. The tax status of solar projects was reviewed; taxing entities can require a PILOT. Mr. Pincelli said the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has a standard PILOT agreement they use. A brief discussion took place on the proposed 2,000-acre solar project in the Towns of Rose and Galen. The State handles permitting and approval of solar projects over 25 MW.

The agenda included the monthly activities report for the Tourism Office. The report listed all meetings and trainings attended by Mrs. Worth during May. A planning meeting for the Apple Tasting Tour was held June 1st. The County's Harvest brochure has 25 partners. The Department sent in part one of the Matching Funds application, the second part of the application is due in mid-June. The Tourism Office will be donating wine glasses again to Taste of Wayne County participates; the event will take place July 20th. Ticket for the event will be capped at 500. The County's Visitor's Guide has been distributed to business. Mrs. Worth reviewed a mobile data collection opportunity through the region. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator continues to provide fishing updates. The County has a fishing advertising campaign in *New York Outdoor News*. Events the Coordinator attended were included in the report.

This year's Wayne County Fair is occurring on a very limited basis. Mr. Lasher questioned if the County's bicentennial float should be present for the events that are planned.

Mrs. Worth received an Excellence in Leadership Award from the NYS Tourism Industry Association for individual response to the COVID-19 crisis; the Department received an Excellence in Tourism Marketing Award for their digital Apple Tasting Tour Campaign and U Pick APP and an Excellence in Tourism Marketing Award for COVID-19 Response Marketing Efforts. She thanked Supervisors for the support they gave her Department during the pandemic.

In other business, Mrs. Worth reported a travel writer made contact with the Tourism Office and will be in town at the end of June. A clerical staff member will be out on medical leave later this month for six to eight weeks.

Mrs. Worth presented a transmittal requesting authorization to submit the New York State Tourism Matching Funds grant application. The County is responsible to match any funds they receive through the grant. Mrs. Worth received notification from the State the local Department would be receiving \$31,000. Approved 5-0.

A transmittal was presented requesting authorization for adoption of a local law providing for participation in a pilot youth deer-hunting program consistent with the provisions of NYS Environmental Conservation Laws. The public hearing for this local law is scheduled for June 15th. The Board will vote on the request after the public hearing is held. Approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 7th at 10:00 a.m.