

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Johnson, Groat, Chatfield, Lasher and Eynor, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistant Brian Sams, Tourism Director Christine Worth, Wayne County Cornell Cooperative Extension Representatives Maggie McHugh, Amy Bullard and Jen Peeso, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli and County Purchasing Agent Christopher O'Connor. Supervisor Robusto was not present for the meeting.

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

The monthly activities report for the Tourism Office was distributed with the agenda. It included a list of meetings and events Mrs. Worth and staff attended during August. The digital media campaign is being finalized for the Apple Tasting Tour and brochures distributed. The Harvest Guide is also being distributed. There are 27 participants, to date, participating in the Holiday Brochure. A section of the Department's web page will be dedicated to the solar eclipse occurring in 2024. Mrs. Worth will be attending Emergency Management's April 2024 solar eclipse meeting.

The Committee was informed a Civil War Tribute is planned for later this month in Pultneyville. Mr. Groat stated there will be a Block House Reenactment in Clyde later in the month.

Mrs. Worth presented a transmittal requesting authorization to designate herself as the County's Tourism Promotion Agent. The appointment of an Agent is needed for the Department to receive State grant funds. Approved 4-0.

Ms. McHugh introduced Strengthen Our Area Residents (SOAR) Outreach Coordinator Amy Bullard and Project Coordinator Jen Peeso to the Committee. In 2013, the local Cooperative Extension Office was awarded a Neighborhood Health Status Improvement Grant from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. Funding focuses on engaging neighborhood residents to complete an asset-based assessment of their community and carry out small-scale projects in neighborhoods. SOAR is active in the Towns of Galen, Savannah and Village of Clyde. Mrs. Peeso said the program seeks to empower residents and businesses to perform community development projects. SOAR supports activities and events having the connecting pieces between the school, municipalities, businesses and residents. Programs provides guidance and education on processes that enable residents to plan, execute, and hold projects and events in the community. Through the program, \$76,000 in mini grants was distributed to the community and investments of over \$86,000 were made to 30 micro enterprise loan/grants to local businesses, helping open 13 new businesses.

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Mr. Groat noted the lower life expectancy for residents of eastern Wayne County, saying programs offered through SOAR have been developed to help keep residents active and offer healthier options. The program will continue building on local assets into 2024.

Mr. Pincelli presented the following transmittals:

--Authorization to extend the contract with MRB Group for the Butler Prison Market Study and Requests for Expression of Interest documents. The new expiration date will be January 31st 2024. There is no additional cost for the extension of time on the project. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to award the contract for qualified environmental professional services for Brownfield Grants awarded to the County to Montrose Engineering and Geology from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Mr. Pincelli noted the County received \$1 million in Environmental Protection Agency funding and the Land Bank received grant funds for environmental clean-up projects. Wayne Economic Development Corp. is also managing a Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund on behalf of the County. Solicitation for qualified environmental professional services to assist those agencies is happening alongside the County. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to approved modifications to the County's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. The Wayne County Agriculture Development Board approved recommended changes to the Plan. Approved 4-0.

--Authorization to designate Agricultural Development Specialist Ora Rothfuss as Wayne County Parks Snowmobile Grant Project Administrator. This designation is needed for the Department to receive State Snowmobile Trail Funds. Mr. Pincelli said a draft of the planned trail is available in his Office or on the Department's web page. Each year Wayne County receives between \$80,000 and \$100,000 to help in the management of snowmobile trails. Approved 4-0.

Mr. Pincelli reviewed some activities in the Economic Development/Planning Department:

- Work utilizing the \$1 million Farmworkers Housing Grant is complete. Seven farmworker housing projects were replaced with these Community Development Block Grant funds provided by NYS Office of Community Renewal.
- The 5th Annual Kick-Start Wayne County Pitch Competition is accepting applications until September 20th. This event fosters entrepreneurship and supports new business development in the County. The first place winner receives \$20,000. A Youth Kick-Start Pitch Competition will be held again this year. The event provides students with a platform to display their creativity, problem-solving skills and business judgment.
- The contract for oversight of the Broadband Project is underway, and the Spectrum contract has been fully executed. The FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to-be-served addresses are being monitored.

Mr. Chatfield asked about the process to remove the former Butler Prison from its Agriculture District status. Mr. Pincelli noted properties can be added to the County's Agriculture District list

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once a year; however, only removed every eight years at the property owner's request. Department of Corrections will be contacted to work through the process.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m.